

# Australia

## I. Our Kith & Kin of the Island Continent

By Frank Fox

Author of "Bushman and Buccaneer," "Ramparts of Empire," etc.

AUSTRALIA, covering nearly three million square miles, is the largest island and the smallest continent of the world, the newest in regard to civilized settlement, the oldest in its geological features, its indigenous vegetation, and its aboriginal population. The Australian people, about five millions in number, challenge interest everywhere. Physically they were declared by British and foreign observers—judging by their soldiers during the Great War—to be the finest and handsomest type of men. Mentally and artistically they produce singers, artists, and writers with an almost ridiculous profusion, and specimens of the race are to be found in every corner of the globe in concert-halls, artists' quarters, and newspaper offices.

In character they are far more assertive than the British, very self-confident, somewhat inclined to be ruthless. The story of the production of this sub-type of the British race on a continent which they have all to themselves is one of the interesting chapters of man's history.

### When Evolution Almost Stopped

Far back in the prehistoric era of the world, this great island was cut adrift from the rest of the world and left lonely and apart in the Southern Pacific. There life stagnated. A few prehistoric marsupials wandered over its area and were hunted by primitive nomads of men, without art or architecture, condemned by the conditions of their life to stand aside from the great onward current of human evolution.

Over this land winds swept and rains fell, and—volcanic action having ceased—the mountains were denuded and their deep stores of minerals bared until gold lay about on the surface. Coal, copper, silver, tin, and iron, too, were made plentifully accessible. From the detritus

of the mountains enormous agricultural plains were formed in the interior, but under climatic conditions which allowed no forward development of the indigenous vegetable or animal types. For plant and animal, as well as for man, evolution almost stopped.

Nature thus seemed to be working, as though consciously, for the making of a place uniquely fitted for peopling by a white race, while at the same time ensuring that its aboriginal inhabitants should not be able to profit by its resources, and thus raise themselves to a degree of social organization which would allow them to resist invasion.

### Most Forlorn of the World's Races

In the year when Captain Cook annexed the continent of Australia for Great Britain, it was ripe for development by civilized effort in a way which no other territory of the earth then was; and yet was so hopelessly sterile to man without machinery and the other apparatus of human science, that the aboriginal inhabitants were the most forlorn of the world's races, living a starveling life, dependent on poor hunting, scanty fisheries, and a few roots for existence. This great area of rich land, stuffed with precious and useful minerals, had remained hidden away for centuries from the advancing civilization of man as effectually as if it had been in the planet Mars.

The same mysterious forests of the Neolithic Age remained, the same prehistoric animals roamed, the same poor nomads of men lived and died, neither tilling nor mining the earth—tenants in occupation, content with a bare and accidental livelihood in the midst of mighty riches.

Australia was not discovered by the white man until the time was ripe for a new nation to be founded on principles





#### SHEEP FARMER OF A LAND OF MOUNTAIN AND FLOOD

He is a man of Monaro, the lovely south-eastern corner of New South Wales, where the pastoral life of the Australian is touched with romantic beauty. With his mount and his pack-horse, this master of sheep ranges a land of streams and heights almost as lonely as it was when only the nomad aborigines camped there and sheep were unknown.

*Photo, Australian Commonwealth*

of liberty and democracy; and its occupation and development were then reserved for the people best fitted for the founding of a young nation on the virgin soil. This "fairy story" of Nature did not end there. The early British settlers coming to Australia not only found that nothing had been drawn from soil or reef, that an absolutely virgin country was theirs to exploit with plough and pick, but also were greeted by a singularly happy climate, free from most of the diseases which afflicted older lands.

Prolific Australia, with all its marvellous potentialities, lay open to them, with no warlike tribes to enforce a bloody beginning to history, no epidemics to war against, no savage beasts to encounter, and within most of its area an energising climate which seemed to encourage the best faculties of man, just as it gave to harvests a wonderful richness and to herds a marvellous fecundity.

How it came to be that such a vast area of the earth's surface, so near to the great Indian and Chinese civilizations, should have remained unknown, it is difficult to understand.

Australia to-day contains not the slightest trace of contact with ancient or

medieval civilization. Exploration was attracted to the East Indies and to Cathay by the tales of spices, scents, gold, silver, and ivory. No such tales came from Australia. It was to prove one of the great gold-producing countries of the world, but its natives had no appreciation for the precious metal, though it was strewn about the ground in great lumps in some places. Nor did sugar, spice, and ivory come from the land; nor, indeed, any product of man's industry or Nature's bounty. Wrapped in its grey-green forests, protected by a coast-line which appeared barren and inhospitable, Australia remained the "Sleeping Beauty" of the world's story.

It was a good thing that the British race colonised Australia. It was also a good thing that the "rebel" elements in the British race predominated in the first colonists—the men who found life in the Home Country too narrow.

The early colonists found life desperately hard. There was no indigenous grain for bread, no native animal that provided good meat. The eastern coast, which was the site of the first settlement, seemed sterile; certainly it would not respond to English methods of cultivation, even the food supplies of the few



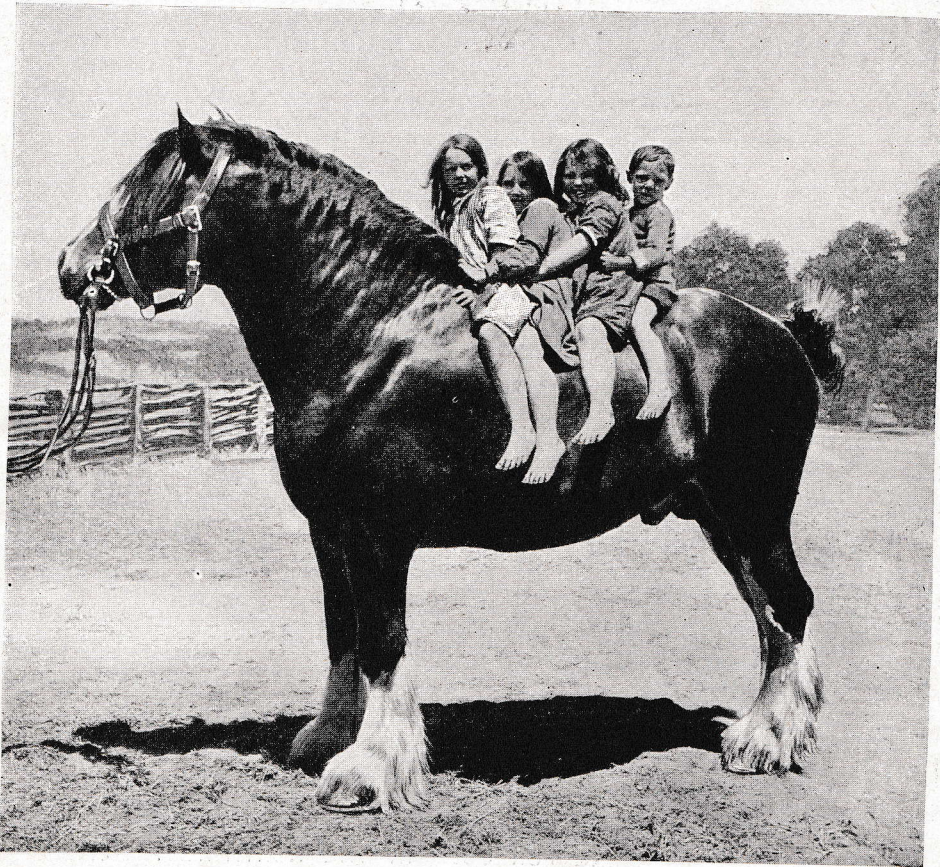
## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

settlers had, in those days, to be imported. And yet this country to-day is an enormous exporter of wheat, meat, fruit, and butter.

After they had learned with much painful effort that the coast around Sydney would produce some little grain and fruit and grass for cattle, there was a halt in the progress of the continent. West of Sydney, about forty miles from the coast, stretched the Blue Mountains, and these it was found impossible to cross. No passes existed. Though not very lofty, the mountains were savagely wild. The explorer following a ridge or a line of valley with patience for many miles would come suddenly to a full stop. A cliff face, falling or rising

sheerly one thousand feet or so, would declare "no road here."

Nowadays when the Blue Mountains have been conquered and are traversed by roads and railways, tourists from all parts of the world find pleasure in looking upon these wonderful gorges. But in the days of the explorers they were the cause of many disappointments, indeed, of many tragedies. Finally, they were conquered and two roads were cut across them—one from Sydney, one from Windsor, about thirty miles north from Sydney. The passing of the Blue Mountains opened up to Australia the great tableland on which the chief mineral discoveries were to be made, and the vast interior plains which were

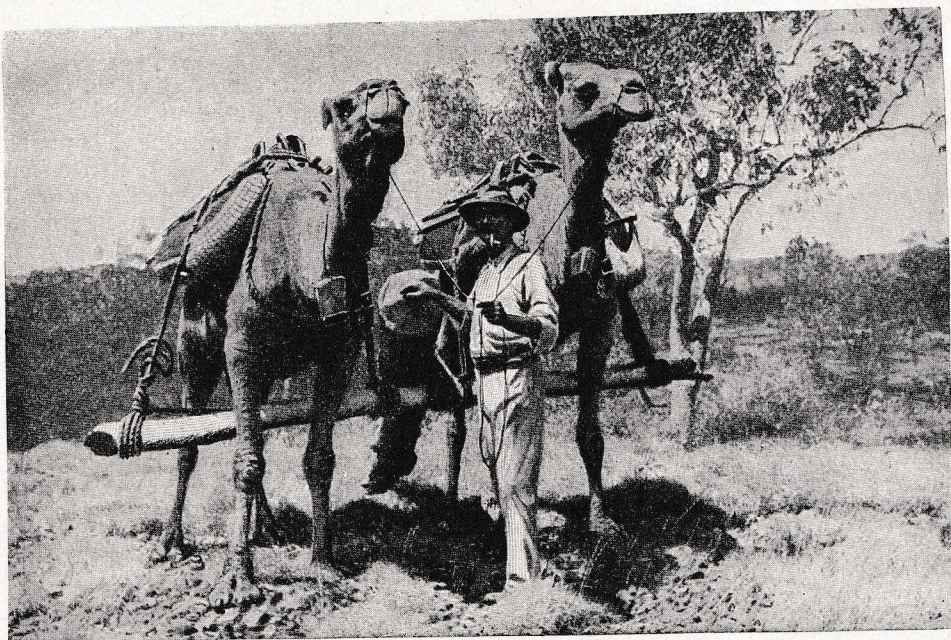


### THE STURDY STOCK THEY RAISE ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS

The overgrown and overcrowded coastland cities of Australia may be remarkable for their low birth-rate, but the magnificent farmlands of the island continent, where horses sometimes escape to natural pastures and breed such herds of wild creatures that these have to be shot, raise fine strong children of open-air life, as well as other sturdy livestock

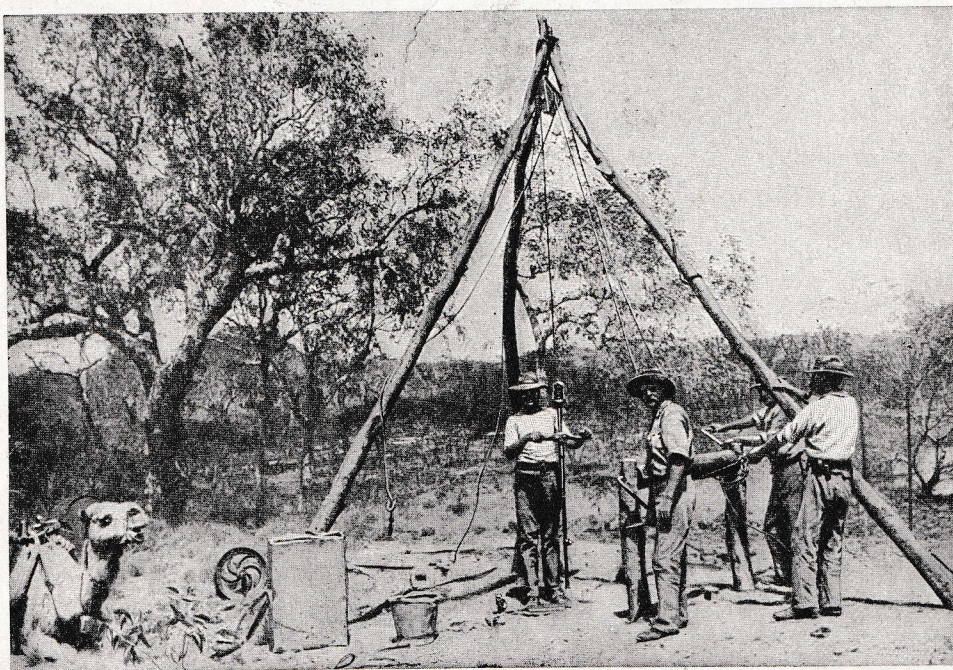
*Photo, Agent General for Western Australia*





#### GOLD PROSPECTOR WITH CAMEL TEAM AND BORING OUTFIT

He is starting, with three other men, into the furnace-like wilderness of the unexplored north-west of Westralia, in which a million ounces of gold are won every year. In this tropic waste, with water-holes at long distances, the imported camel has become naturalised

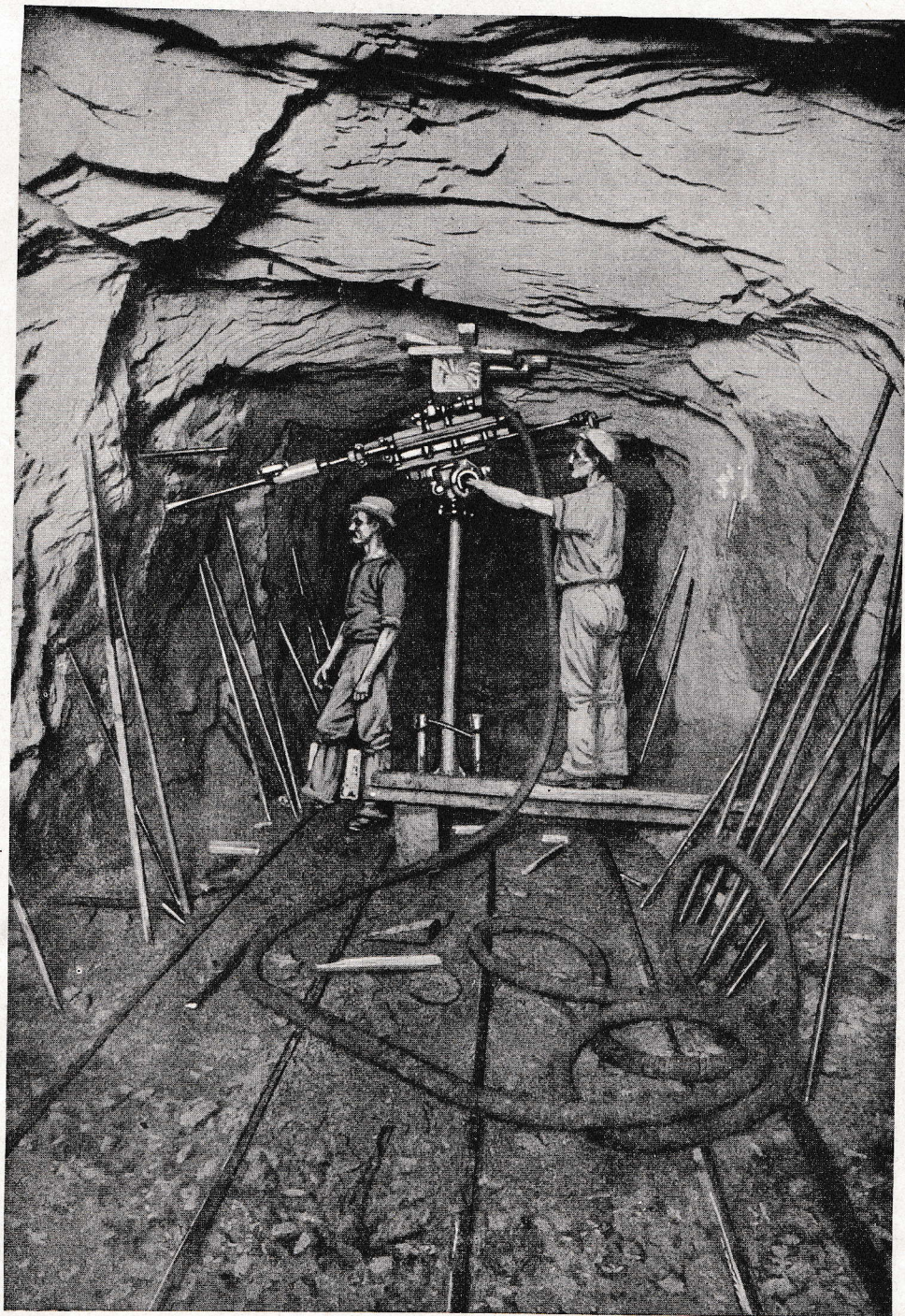


#### ROD AND ROPE BORING FOR GOLD IN THE NORTH-WEST SCRUB

The party has unloaded at likely ground. All is fixed and ready. Three men are cranking up the rope to let the boring rod strike the rock, and one man—it will soon need two men—is wrenching the instrument round as it hits. He will discover the nature of the strata, and perhaps find a show of gold

*Photos, E. L. Mitchell*





#### GOLDMINING ON A SUNKEN REEF IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The greater number of Australia's 20,000 goldminers labour in a commonplace, steady way, breaking up rock, and sending it to the surface to be treated for minute gold particles. Here is the usual compressed air-drill working on a sunken reef of quartz. Old-fashioned, romantic alluvial gold-getting produces only a small fraction of Australia's gold

*Photo, Agent General for Western Australia*



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

to produce merino wool of such quality as no other land can equal. From that time onwards exploration was steadily pushed on. The perils always were of thirst and hunger. Even now there is some danger in penetrating the wild parts of the interior of Australia without a skilful guide who knows where water can be found, and death from thirst in the bush is not infrequent.

### Calling for Help by Cutting the Wire

One device has saved many lives. The wildest and loneliest part of the continent is traversed by a telegraph line which brings the European cable messages from Port Darwin on the north coast to Adelaide in the south. Men lost in the bush near to that line make for its route and cut the wire. That causes an interruption on the line; a line-repairer is sent out from the nearest repairing station and finds the lost man camped near the break in the wire. Sometimes he is too late and finds him dead.

The early pioneer in Australia—called a squatter because he “squatted” on the land where he chose—enjoyed an adventurous life. Taking all his household gods with him, he moved out into the wilderness looking for a place where he might settle or “squat.” It was the experience of the Swiss Family Robinson made real. The little community with its wagons and tents, its horses, oxen, sheep, dogs, perhaps also with a few poultry in one of the wagons, would have to live for many months an absolutely self-contained life.

### How Squatters became Nation Builders

The family and its servants would provide wheelwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, veterinary surgeons, cattle-herds, milkers, shearers, cooks, bridge-builders, and the like. The children brought up under those conditions won not only fine healthy frames, but an alertness of mind and a wideness of resource which made them, and their children after them, fine nation-builders.

That the aborigines could take no part in the moulding of an Australian nation was unfortunate for them, but it was of benefit to the white settlers,

who were thus able to work out without any admixture of native blood the problem of how the British race would evolve, supposing it were set back to Elizabethan conditions of life and put to live in a hot sunny climate. Glance at him in Europe as he appeared during the Great War, the “Anzac,” so called from the initials of the Australian-New Zealand Army Corps.

This “Anzac” striding, or limping, down the Strand with challenging glance brought Australia actually home to the Mother Country. Easily could Anzacs be picked out from the native population. They walked the streets with a slightly obvious swagger. When awed a little it was a point of honour not to show it. When critical a little it peeped out. Two by two they kept one another in countenance and were fairly comfortable. Catch one alone and you might see in his eyes a hunger for a mate, a need for some other Anzac. For all his bravura air, the Anzac had no perfect self-confidence, and he had a child's shy fear of making himself ridiculous by a false step.

### The “Anzac” in the Making

The same fear made him difficult to know. He would set up as a protective barrier against a real knowledge of him a stubborn taciturnity, or a garrulous flow of what Australians call “skite” and Londoners call “swank.” The Anzac appeared as the young of the British—the young of the British, not of the English only—a close mixture of English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh colonists with practically no foreign strain, but with a wild element in the mixture.

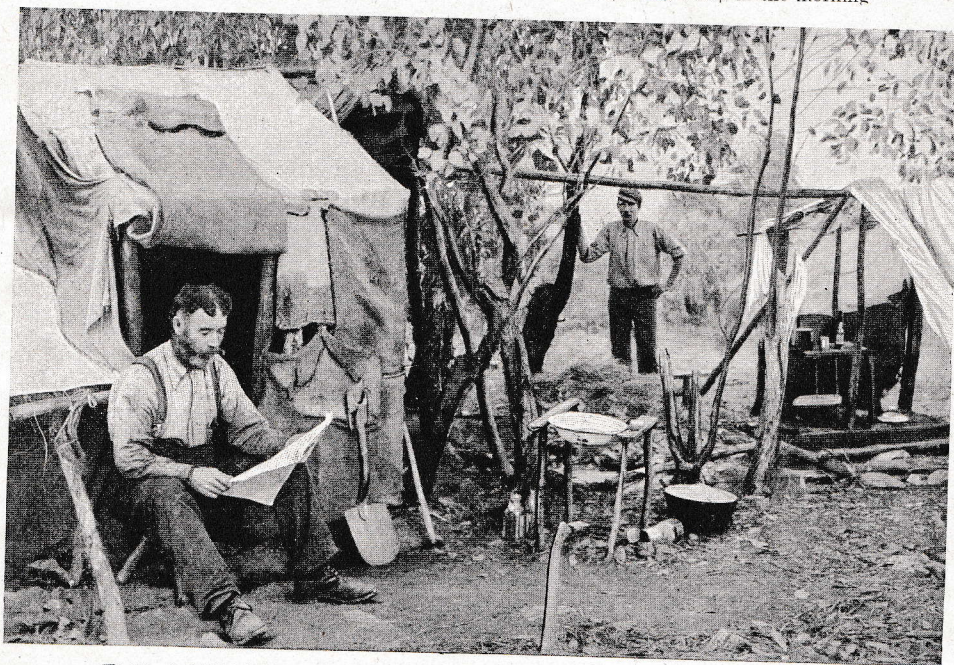
The first wild strain was of notable value to a new nation in the making. It came to Australasia not only from the original settlers but also from the rushes to the goldfields. And—note here the first sign that the Anzac people were to be dominated by the English spirit and were to keep the law even while they forgot conventions—there was never a Judge Lynch in an Australian mining camp. The King's writ and trial by jury stood always. The “wild





#### RIDERS OF THE GREAT PASTURES SHIFTING CAMP

So large are many of the sheep runs of Australia that the men who look after the fences and repair the damage done by kangaroos and other animals are away from the station for days. Theirs is a pleasant lonely life, camping at evening by water, and shifting camp in the morning



#### THE ROUGHLY TENTED CAMP OF AUSTRALIAN GOLDMINERS

When they are working for themselves in the hot, wild bush, they labour hard, either in hope or in desperation. Quartz crushing, with its wealthy organization and elaborate machinery, is now general, yet small, vigorous parties can often make a very good living in Westralia

*Photos, Australian Commonwealth*





#### HOW THE RIVERINA MERINOS ARE BATHED IN ARSENIC

Such is insect life on runs and ranches in Australia, that sheep and cattle would have a desperate struggle for life if their skins were not lightly poisoned with an arsenic dip at regular periods. Here is part of a fine-wooled flock being driven into a deep, long wooden bath of poison. It is a good occasion for examining each sheep closely for quality and fitness

*Photo, N.S.W. Govt.*





### SHEARING THE RIVERINA MERINOS BY MACHINERY

Many of the old romantic school of swagsmen hand-shearers, who tramped from station to station with billy and bag, and sometimes worked down from Queensland through New South Wales to Victoria, are still at work. But the younger men, expert in machine shearing, do the job more quickly

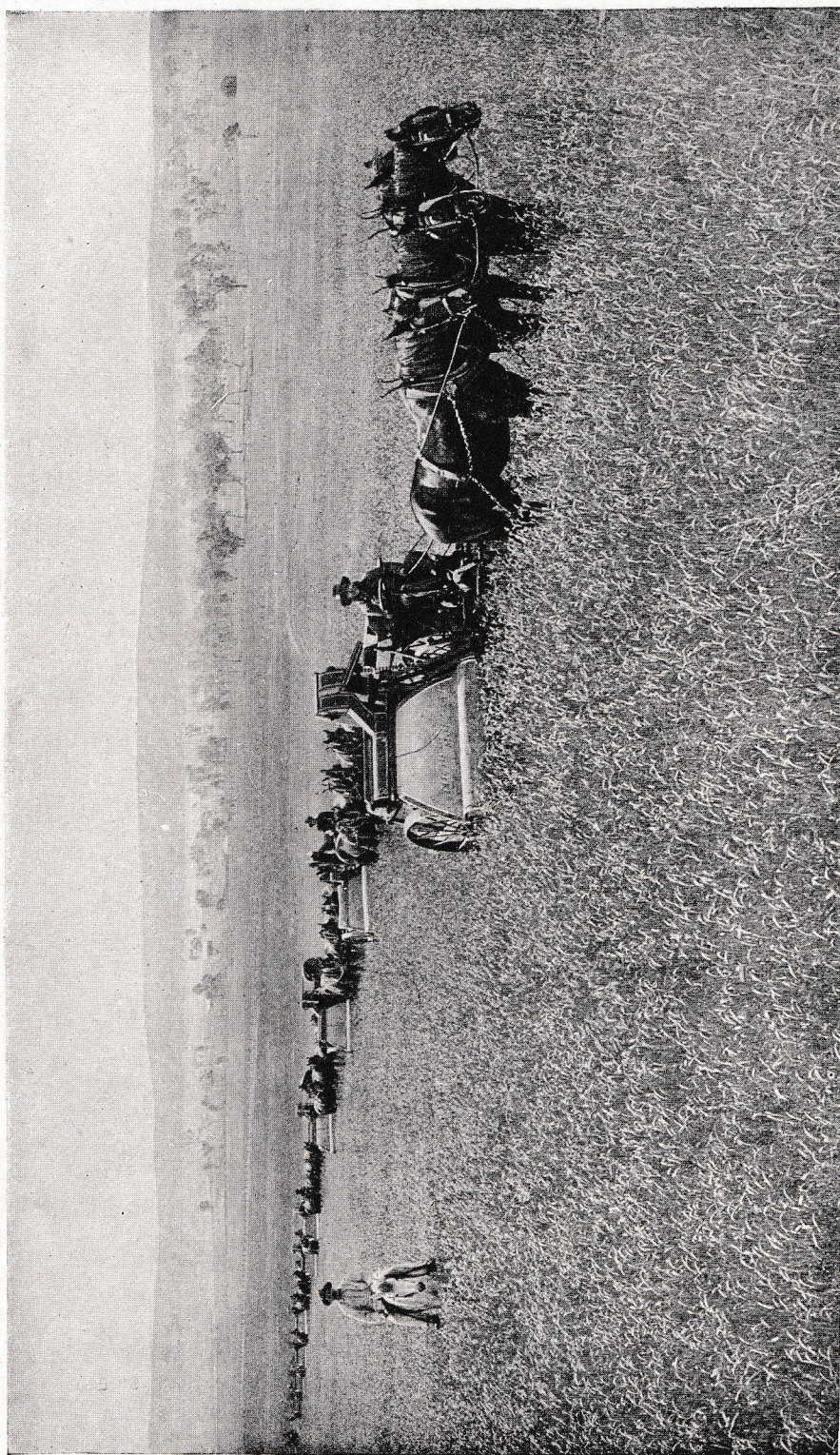


### SORTING AND CLASSING THE WOOL BRED FROM SPANISH SHEEP

Bred about a century and a quarter ago from twenty-nine sheep from the Escorial flock of the King of Spain, Australia's millions of merinos produce the finest of wools. While common wool has 800 fibres to the centimetre, the finest Australian rams have wool with 37,000 to the centimetre. These experienced sorters quickly class the wools according to quality

*Photos, N.S.W. Govt.*



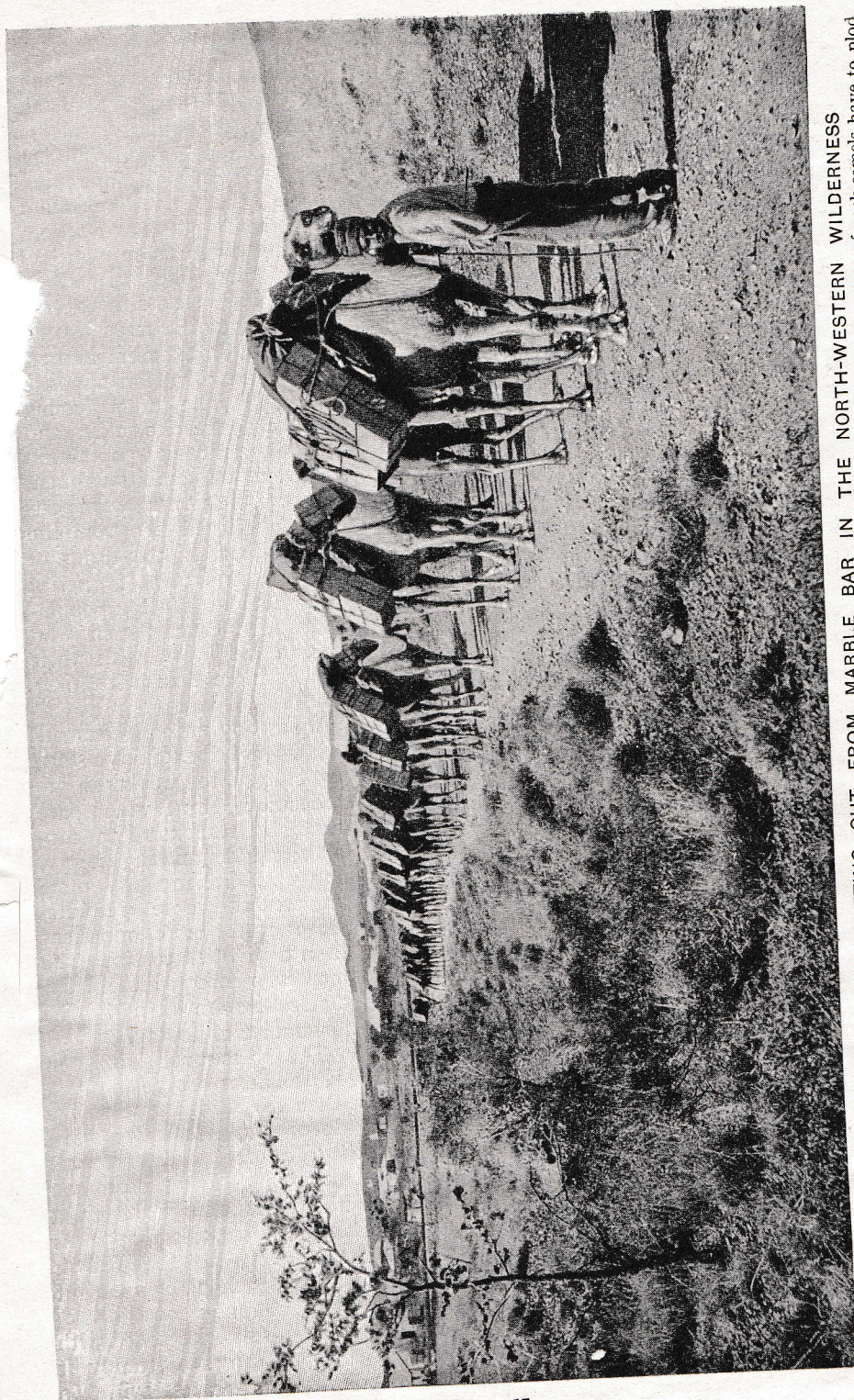


A BATTALION OF WHEAT-STRIPPERS HARVESTING ABOVE THE MURRUMBIDGEE AT COOLAMON

The average Australian farmer is very easy-going. He sows and gathers his wheat one year, and leaves the land fallow the following season. His crop depends on October and early November rains, and is a weather gamble, so he will not chance more and have a four-year rotation of produce. He also saves labour by a stripping machine that leaves the straw standing and gathers only the grains in a large hopper

*Photo, N.S.W. Govt.*





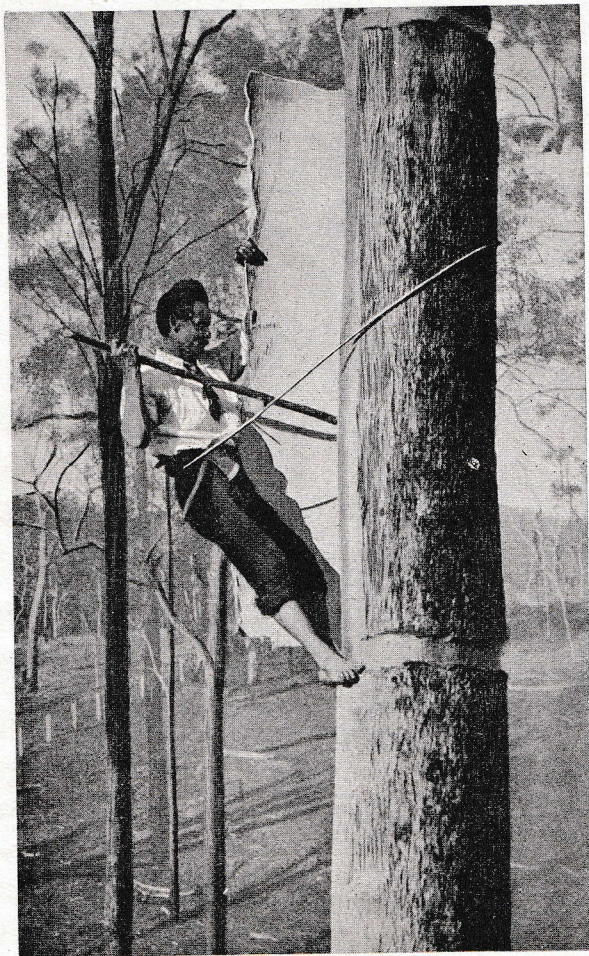
#### GOLDMINERS' WILDERNESS

**CAMEL TRAIN SETTING OUT FROM MARBLE BAR IN THE NORTH-WESTERN** Caravans of pack-camels have to plod Marble Bar is one of the centres of the Pilbara goldfield that extends into the Great Sandy Desert of the North West. desert-marooned miners and supply the mines with materials. Then, as in through the tropic shrub, by Cooncan stream, into the waste to feed the remote, the long trains of camels return towards the coast settlements with treasures of gold

*Photo, Australian Commonwealth*



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT



**TREE-BARKING ON A DROUGHTY PASTURAGE**

On many ranches trees are not worth cutting down, and are killed by barking them, leaving the bare trunk to stand many years. This is done because they rob the grass of moisture in dry seasons

strain" was not only of men who found in the Old Country a physical environment too narrow. It was partly of men who desired a wider mental horizon. Some very strange minor elements would show out in a detailed analysis of early Australasian immigration—disciples of Fourier, who gave up great possessions in England to seek an idealistic Communism in the Antipodes; recluse bookworms who thought they could coil closer to their volumes in primitive solitudes. But one element was strong—the political and economic doctrine—and the

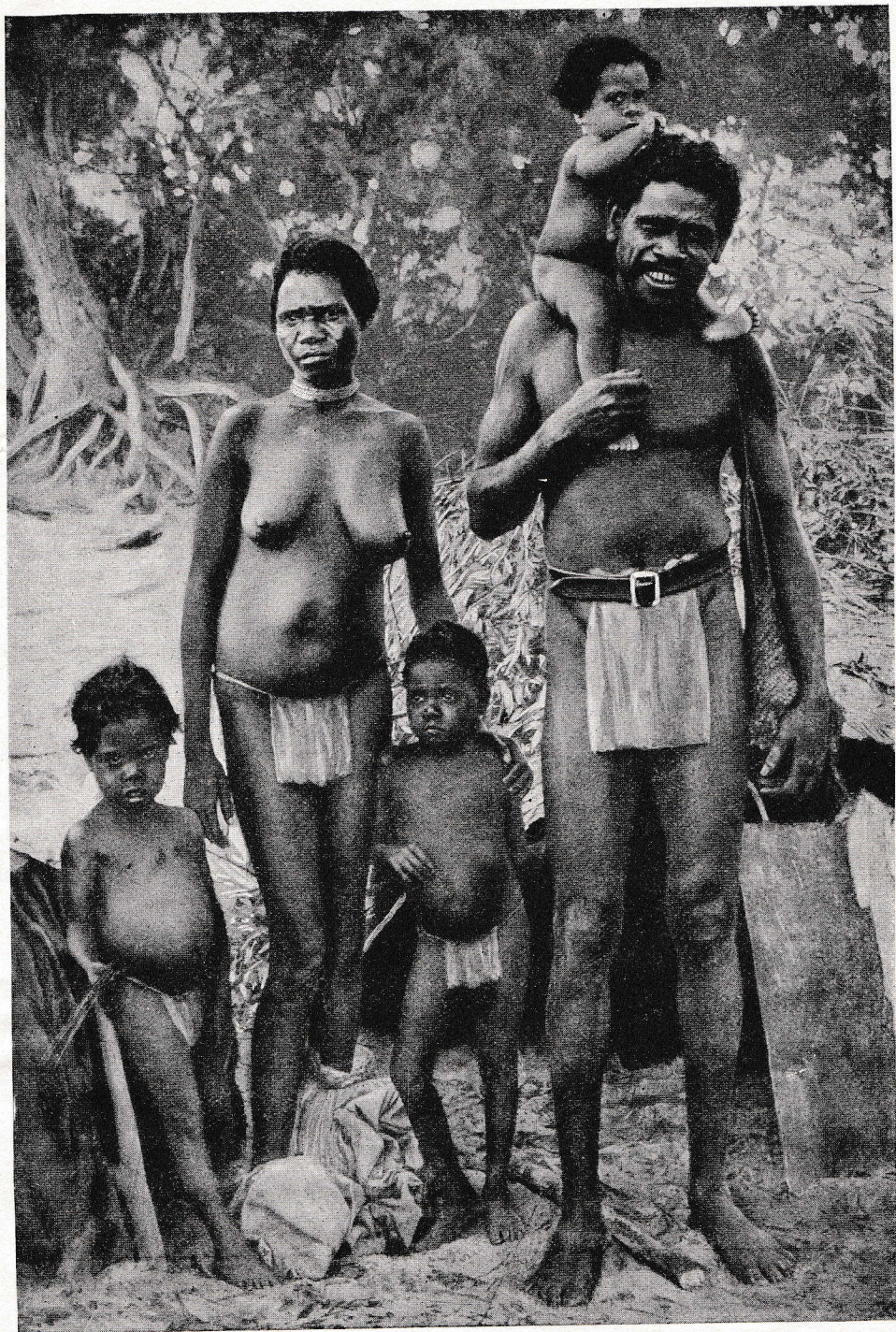
conditions of the new country encouraged the growth of this element particularly, so that Australia has won quite a fame for political inventions—e.g., the Australian Ballot and the Torrens Land Title.

The generous growth of what may be termed "thinking" class was encouraged by the very isolation which, it would seem at first should have had an opposite effect. While other young countries lost to older and greater centres of population their young, ambitious men, Australasia's Antipodean position preserved her from the full extent of the drain of that mental law of gravity which makes the big populations attract the men who aspire to work with their brains more than with their hands.

Faced by natural elements which are inexorably stern to folly, to weakness, to indecision, but which are generally responsive to capable and dominating energy, the Australian is more resourceful, more resolute, more cruel, more impatient than his British cousin. The men who followed the drum of Drake were akin to the Australian of to-day.

Though so much younger in ideas, the Australian as a type is much more adult than the British type on the practical side of life. He starts work at an earlier age. He has stern work to do. Resourcefulness is forced on him from the first. Life leads to a certain hardness of outlook that must seem a little savage to the British citizen. Life is prized, of course, but its loss—either of one's own or of the other fellow's—is not regarded with any superstitious horror. Certainly it is not considered the greatest evil. To go out with a mate and to come back without him and under the slightest





A "BLACKFELLOW" AND HIS FAMILY SETTLED DOWN TO FARMING LIFE  
 The man lives on a farm by Marra Creek in New South Wales, and works, for strong drink, with white men in the construction of a barrage. But look at the miserable shelter of branches and grass, in which he lives with wife and three children. A century's intercourse with white Australians has not taught the aborigines (generally, but wrongly, called blackfellows) a better way of building

*Photo. Prof. Sir T. Edgeworth David*



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

suspicion of not having taken the full share of risk and hardship would be counted greater.

Living close up to Nature, which can be very savage with tortures of fire and thirst and flood, the back-country Australian—who sets the national type—must learn to be wary and enduring

and sternly true to the duties of "mateship." The Beduin of tradition suggests him in his ideals of "mateship" and stoicism. He follows the desert school of chivalry in his love for his horse and his dog, and his hospitality to the stranger within his gates. He will share his last drop of water with the animal he is fond of; and in the back-country the lonely huts of the boundary riders are left open to any chance caller, with a notice, perhaps, as to where to find the food stores, and to "put the treacle back where the ants cannot get to it." It is a point of honour for the traveller not to take except in case of need.

It is not easy to understand at first the back-country Australian code of ethics. An English parson who now, back in his rectory in one of the fairest counties of England, often looks back with a feeling almost of regret at his year in the "Back of Beyond" of Australia, tells that his first impression was that the Australian of the bush was cruel and pagan. His last impression was that he was generally as fine a Christian as any heaven for human beings would want.

An incident of this parson's "conversion" (he related) was the entry into a far-back town of a band of five men carrying another on a stretcher. The six were opal miners with a little claim far out in the desert. One had been very badly mauled in an explosion. The others



### CIVILIZATION AND BLACK MARIA

Maria is a well-known native woman of Southern Queensland who delights in being fully dressed in the latest fashion. She is shown in all her glory with her brass name-plate and parasol at a railway station on the Brisbane line





#### TWO POOR OLD NORTHERN BLACKFELLOW CHIEFS AND A GIN

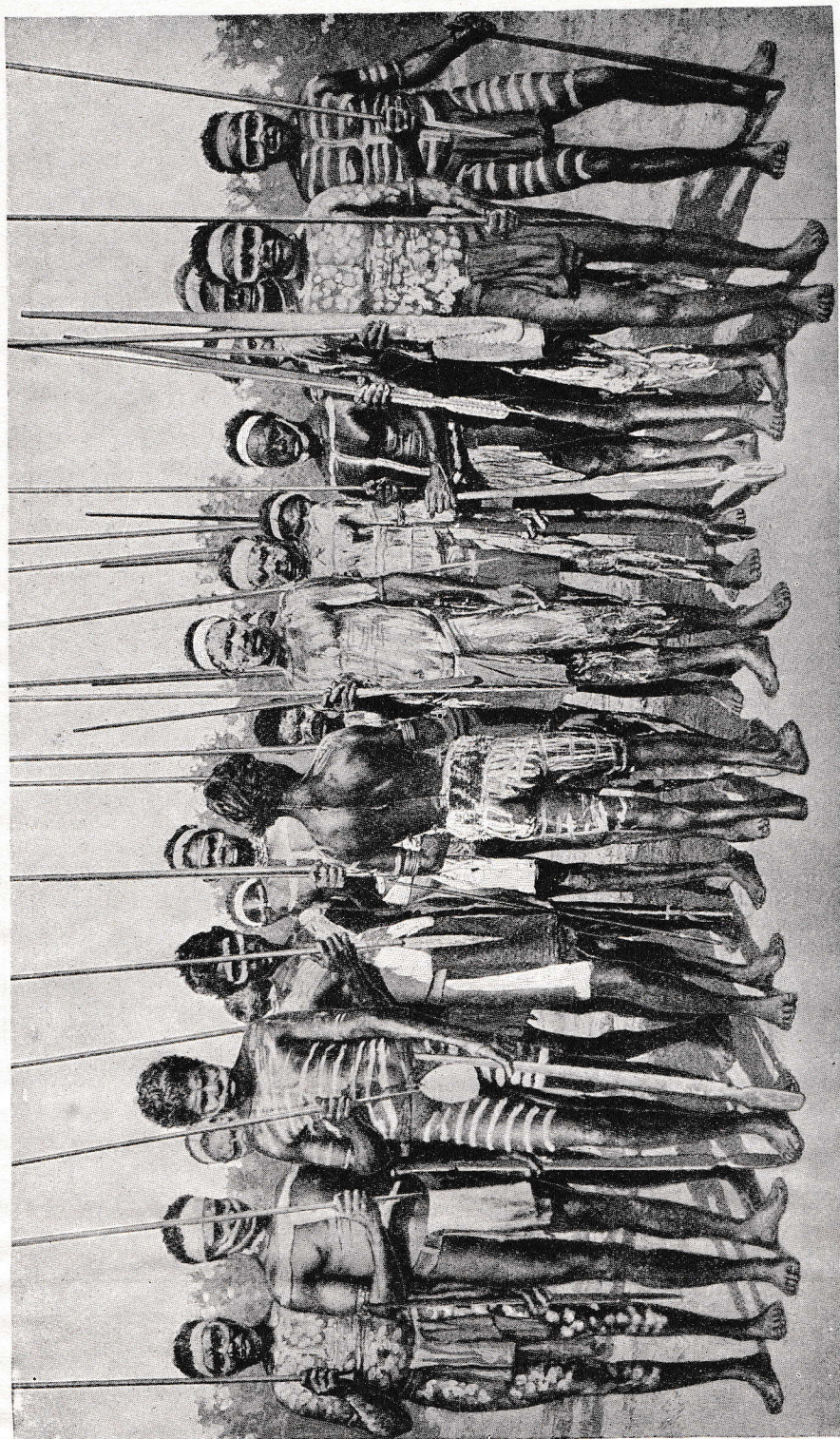
They are a remnant of the broken coast tribes above Brisbane, and proud of their sadly ridiculous portable ticket titles. Drink, no doubt, comforts them, but their kingship is very dubious. As a rule, there is no real chief of an active tribe. The women are commonly known by Australians as "gins," an abbreviated form of "aborigines."

stopped their profitable work at once and set themselves to carry him in to the nearest township that had a hospital. The distance was forty-five miles. On the road some of the party almost perished of thirst, but the wounded man had his drink always, and always the bandages on his crushed leg were kept moist in the fierce heat of the sun. One of the men was asked

how they had managed to make this sacrifice. "It was better to use the water that way than to hear the poor —moan." The rough modesty was true Australian, and just as true would it be for the same man to "skite" with childish vanity over some trifle.

The visitor to Australia who expects, on landing, to be greeted by a mob of yelling cowboys, invited to drink





WARRIORS OF A CLAN DRESSED, WAR PAINTED, AND ARMED FOR A BATTLE DANCE

All the paint, pipeclay, and red and yellow ochre is disposed with magic effect, and their wooden spears and flat, notched spear throwers have been "sung over," or enchanted. Now in a violent noisy war-dance they will act the victory they intend to win, and this also will have a magic effect on the enemy. Much more play-acting is required before they really set out on the warpath and in the end perhaps kill one man



## AUSTRALIA THE ISLAND CONTINENT

by all and sundry, then compulsorily introduced to a buck-jumper, and his character settled by his manner of managing the steed, will be disappointed. Probably the disappointment will be, on the whole, agreeable, though dissatisfying to the sense of romance.

Reaching Australia you must land at one of the great seaports, and life in an Australian city is practically a replica of life in an English city of the same size. There are no snakes, blacks, kangaroos, buck-jumping exhibitions. There are trams, buses, cabs, shops, policemen, and traffic regulations.

### Cities of Friendliness and Freedom

Certainly there is observable, almost at once, a difference in "atmosphere." This does not refer to the weather, which is warmer and sunnier, but to the general feeling which an Australian city gives to the British visitor, that here are relaxed social rules and conventions, here life is more "free and easy."

With greater familiarity this impression strengthens. In the streets the city men's garb refuses to conform to British conventions. The women, on the other hand, are dressed more gaily. In an Australian city some stretch of street is looked upon as a social meeting-place, and women dress for the street as for a *matinée*. There is no stiffness of social manner. The traditions of the old pastoral days still colour the people's life, and the stranger is looked upon with friendliness rather than suspicion.

### The Open-hearted Australian Character

On the foundation of a few minutes chance talk the stranger may be invited to the Australian's home, or made the reason for a picnic or some such festivity. It is easy to dispense with introductions. A chance query in the street, betraying the fact that you are a stranger, may open a path to the Australian's confidence, and he will take you under his wing and "show you round."

The Australian character has a tinge of open-heartedness and open-handedness. It has less reverence, less respect for tradition, a greater audacity of thought, a greater carelessness of responsibility, a more marked cheerfulness of

habit than the British. For the rest the Australian is British with the British vices and virtues. He follows the same religions—with a good deal less real belief—reads the same books, sees the same plays, eats the same food.

Social distinctions are almost lacking. There is no acknowledged aristocracy. The children of a social magnate, or his grandchildren, may sink into the ranks of manual labourers, for there is no entail and very little favour to the idea of "founding a family" to live in perpetual idleness. The worker of to-day, on the other hand, may become Prime Minister or Chief Justice, or win his way to a learned profession, or to the headship of a big business. There will be few to inquire whence he came as long as his methods were honest.

Of the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth since its inception, one was the son of a comparatively poor official, another the son of a coachbuilder, another the son of a Scottish agricultural labourer, who was never able to send the boy to school, another a working miner, another a casual worker.

### Working Hard and Playing Hard

Throughout society the same conditions rule. The higher ranks are constantly being recruited from the working classes, and shedding off the useless scions of men who had made themselves great but were not able to transmit greatness to their offspring.

In Australia holidays are plentiful. At Christmas and Easter-time almost the whole population takes three or four consecutive holidays. The public holidays, religiously observed, include the King's birthday, the Prince of Wales' birthday, Anniversary Day, Eight Hours Day (the Labour holiday), and in at least one of the States, S. Patrick's Day. When a great occasion arises the Government is prompt to proclaim extra holidays. Let it be said in exculpation—if that be needed—of this liking for holidays, that the Australian usually works hard in order to earn the right to play hard, and the climate of Australia invites the holiday spirit. Over most of the continent





#### GATHERING EDIBLE WATER-LILIES IN A PICTURESQUE RIVER SWAMP

Lily pools are favourite camping grounds of blackfellows, who send their women into the water to gather the flowers. The lily is one of their principal vegetable foods. They eat the leaf-stalks raw, and pound the roots into a pulp and bake it in hot embers. The women afterwards collect large quantities of the seed. grind it between stones, and make the rough flour into flat cakes



## AUSTRALIA. THE ISLAND CONTINENT

there are at least three hundred fine sunny days in the year. Cricket can be, and is, played from one year's end to the other.

The national holiday sport is the picnic. Whatever the occasion, whatever the time of the year, the majority of the people of the continent will decide for a picnic on a holiday. On a holiday, in thousands—one might safely say in millions—the populace, rich and poor, resolves to picnic. There are, of course, endless varieties of picnic. In its simplest form the picnic consists of packing up enough food for the party—which may be a family group, or a collection of friends, and may be of one sex or of both—and walking to some pretty spot where the food is cooked at an open-air fire. Within walking distance of almost any Australian city there are bushlands where camp-fires may be lighted and plenty of fuel obtained.

### The Sacred Ritual of the Billy Can

The meal over, the men smoke and laze a little, the women chatter; then, perhaps, some simple games follow. Later, tea is made. That is essential. The Australian in his home is a vast tea-drinker. At the meal-table it is the exclusive drink of nine people out of ten. The tenth falls into line and becomes a tea-drinker at a picnic; and picnic tea must, by sacred ritual, be "billy tea." The "billy" is a tin pot with a lid, and a capacity of from one quart to a dozen quarts or more. It accompanies every picnic-party as surely as spear or club accompanied the hunter in the days when all meals were eaten in the open air.

An extension of the picnic for a longer holiday is the "camping-out" party. This, too—partly because of the wonderful climate, partly because the pioneering conditions of a new land made tent life first a necessity and then a pleasure—is widely popular in Australia. All sorts and conditions of people aspire to spend a holiday term under canvas, handy to some sea-beach, some fishing resort, some mountain stream. Of marked value in keeping the population toned to hardihood

is this camping-out habit. It tends to make the city clerk a wholesome, manly type; to keep the factory hand strong of chest and thigh; and to mitigate the larrikinism of the cities.

An amusement which has sprung up lately in Australia on the sea coast, and which promises much to improve the physique of the race, since it is so largely favoured by the feminine half of the community, is surf-bathing. The beaches of the continent are magnificent, stretching creamy curves of surf-bordered sands from one to ninety miles.

### Sheer Delights of Surf-Bathing

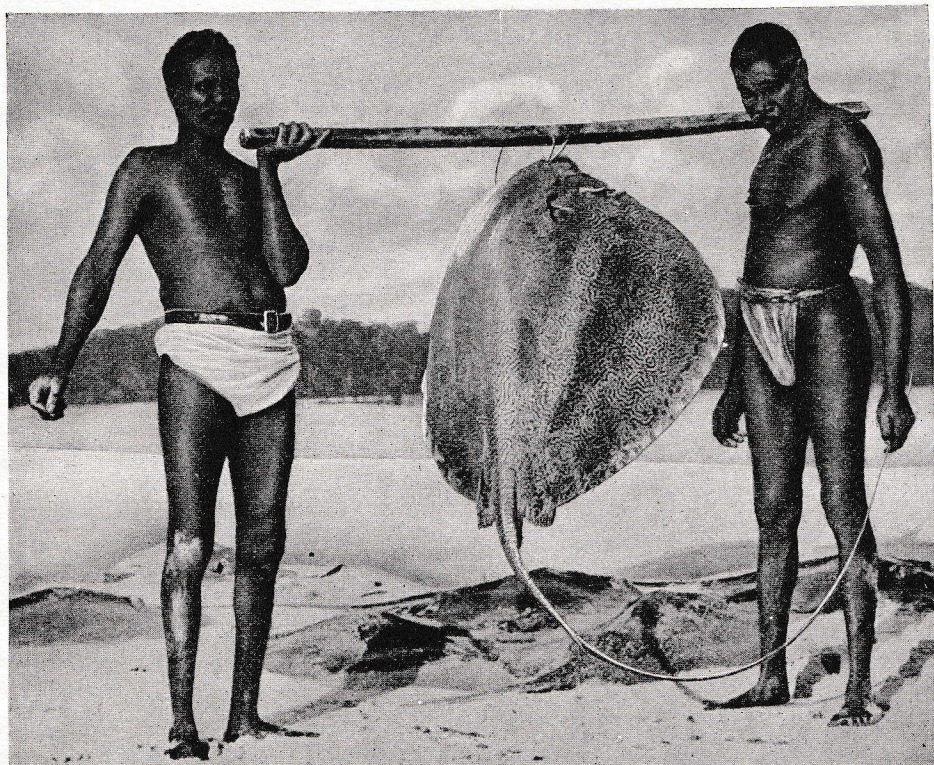
On these fine sands, dazzling in colour, come rolling in the waves of great oceans, the Pacific on one side of the continent and the Indian on the other. Around Sydney, the home of surf-bathing, the popular beaches have many thousands of bathers at all hours of the day.

Australian surf-bathing is not a matter of tiptoeing over wet strands and in shallow pools. It is a standing up to great breakers of ocean water, champagned to foam as they break their crests; and giving to the meeting body mighty thumps, massaging and bracing the muscles delightfully. The European visitor, as a rule, at first looks askance at this sort of surf-bathing. Once persuaded to try it, he or she wishes to live by a Pacific beach all the days of life for the sheer delight of the surf.

### Universal Love of the Turf

In other respects Australia amuses herself very much as Great Britain does. That infallible sign of British settlement, a race-course, lies outside every town. Has a place but a thousand inhabitants, it will have its annual horse-race. In truth the British love of the Turf has developed in Australia to something approaching a mania. The bacillus of the royal sport, like the rabbit, found in its new Australian environment an atmosphere too congenial. Circumstances of Australian life encourage the growth of that gambling spirit on which the Turf relies so much—the dependence on luck in the early gold-digging days, the fact that in the present day the follower of the agricultural and pastoral





#### BLACK GIANTS OF THE NORTH-WEST AND THEIR GIGANTIC FISH

As both men stand more than seven feet high, they give a measure for the size of the remarkable sting-ray they have caught. Among other things, these great blacks are the sea turtle riders described by the exploring De Rougemont, whose fame has been revived by the discoveries of the recent expedition from Perth to Lacrosse Island and other points in North-Western Australia

*Photo, North-West Scientific Expedition*

industries must to a great extent throw dice with Nature, always assured of a fair return on the average, but occasionally, by a trick of the seasons, left with nothing, or with such a gorgeous yield that the profit of one season pays back the capital invested in a big property.

Such is the Australian at play, tempted at once by his sunny climate and the tent-dwelling habits of his immediate ancestors to a love of the open air and large spaces; hearty in his amusements, practising in them, as in his politics, a disregard for class distinctions and a simple democratic equality. He plays very much, but it is sturdy play. Also he works as pastoralist, farmer, miner, manufacturer. Until recently mining was the greatest industry, then it was supplanted by wool-growing and cattle-raising. Now farming is gradually making headway and becoming the chief industry.

Each industry has left its stamp on the national character. It is the characteristic of the Australian gold-miner for instance that he hates to work for wages. He likes to be "his own boss," and will prefer to work on some little claim of his own, making enough to keep him in food, than to accept high wages from an employer.

This independence has spread to other industries. Wool-growing and cattle-raising call for wide spaces and nomadic labour. They have brought into being a tribe of feckless vagabonds—"sundowners," as they came to be called—who tramp the country year by year, doing little or no work, but arriving at sundown at some station, claiming, almost as a right, supper, a night's lodging in a hut, and sufficient rations for the next day's food.

The station homesteads, though situated in the back-country far from



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

any railway, manage to surround life with some luxury. Water is brought from a river or dam to irrigate the homestead garden, and flowers, grapes, oranges, lemons, peaches, and other fruits make gracious the surroundings. Broad, deep verandas, elaborate sun-blinds, double roofs and walls mitigate the fierceness of the sun's heat, which often registers over one hundred degrees Fahrenheit for weeks at a stretch.

But this great pastoral industry was threatened once with actual extinction by so small a creature as the rabbit. In the very early days an exile from the Mother Country thought that it would make his Australian estate home-like if he could see occasionally the flick of

a rabbit's tail in his fields. He introduced some rabbits and they had a warm welcome. They found the Australian climate entirely agreeable, and soon there were places in the country where you could not put down your foot without treading on a rabbit. The female rabbit, beginning family life at the age of three months, produced in Australia up to ninety young a year.

There were no checks on the population from a cold winter, from foxes, stoats, or weasels, or any carnivorous animal. The slender demand for young rabbit made by such reptiles as the carpet snake and the diamond snake was but a drop of demand in an ocean of supply. It became a question whether Australia

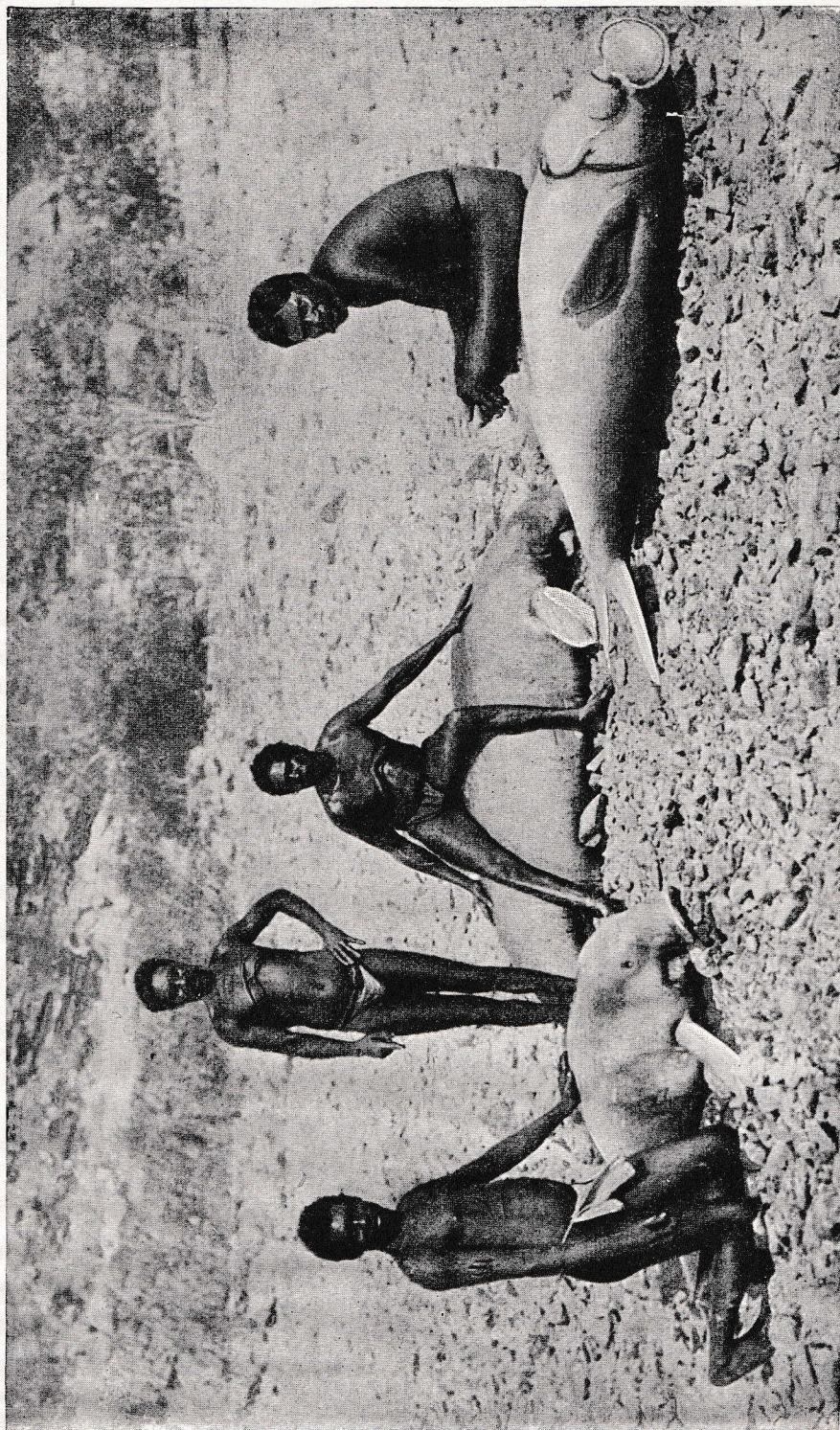


### MAGNIFICENT SAVAGE OF THE CAMBRIDGE GULF ISLANDS

Seven feet high, and as finely shaped as a Greek statue, this black tribesman has climbed a limestone cliff to take the eggs from the remarkable eagle's nest seen beside him. He is a recently discovered Australian black, and a remarkable example of physical perfection

*Photo, North-West Scientific Expedition*





# DUSKY ATHLETES OF THE NEWLY DISCOVERED ISLANDS AND THEIR BIG SEA COWS

One of the sports of the fine tall blacks discovered by the recent North-West Expedition of Australia is spearing the great dugongs, or sea cows, that feed on marine grasses by the coast and suckle their young. When cured, the flesh tastes like bacon, and is well liked by white men, who catch them as far south as Mortem Bay, in strong nets a hundred fathoms long. The sea cow is the scientific form of the mermaid of fable

*Photo, North West Scientific Expedition*



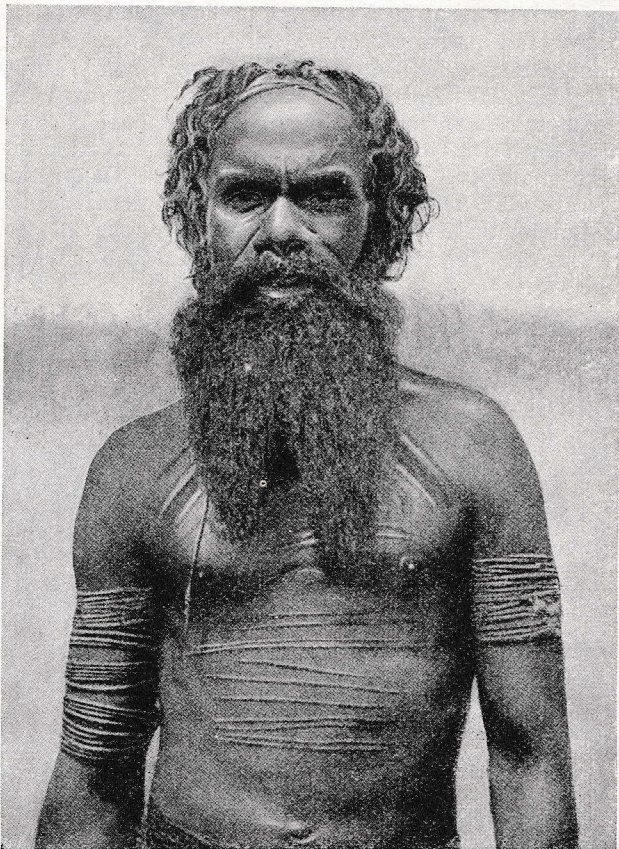
## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

should be given up wholly to rabbits. The sheep pastures were being ruined, fruit and grain crops destroyed. The rabbit war began. Wholesale poisoning and trapping were the chief methods, but eminent chemists (including Pasteur) were invited to discover some disease which could be spread among the rabbits and kill them off in one great epidemic. Everyone was in a scare about rabbits. The only people who prospered were the bush publicans who were called upon to supply beer for the armies of rabbit poisoners and rabbit trappers.

In time it came to be understood that the rabbit could be kept in check by a system of rabbit-proof fencing of the best lands, and that rough land could be made to yield some profit out of its rabbits. The era of rabbit trapping as an industry, not as a means of destruction, began. The rabbit brings into Australia to-day about £1,000,000 a year. The fur is used for felt hats, and is manipulated to imitate fashionable skins such as sealskin and musquash. The carcasses are frozen and exported for food.

The winter climate of the inland plains is splendid, like that of Egypt, bright, clear, and warm in the day, cold and frosty at night, and though furiously hot, not unwholesome in summer. The heat is dry, and to many men stimulating, but compared with the coast climate the inland climate is undoubtedly trying, and so the population mostly settles on the coast. What is a more disturbing fact is that it mostly settles in the big cities; forty-two per cent. of the whole

population of Australia live in six cities. Settlement in the interior would be much facilitated if coolie labour or even coloured domestic servants were available. But the Australian people are stubborn to keep the continent "white," and coloured immigration has been sternly prohibited for a long time.



ARUNTA TRIBESMAN OF THE CENTRAL DESERT

The hair of his head is short, because he has to supply several fathers-in-law regularly with material for string-making. He wears armlets of his women's hair. He has slashed his chest in the elaborate mourning ceremonies of his tribe

Australia has a most curious fauna and flora. The types of animals and vegetation that lived in Europe long before civilization, animals of which we find traces in the fossils of very remote periods, are the types living in Australia to-day. They belong to the same epoch as the mammoth and the great flying lizards and other creatures whose bones fill the museums. Indeed, Australia,



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

as regards its fauna, may be considered as a museum with animals of old times alive instead of in skeleton form.

The kangaroo is always taken as a type of Australian animal life. When an Australian cricket team succeeds in vanquishing an English one in a Test match (which happens now and again), the comic papers may be always expected to print a picture of a lion looking sad and sorry and a kangaroo proudly elate. The kangaroo, like practically all Australian animals, is a marsupial, carrying its young about in a pouch after their birth, until they reach maturity. The kangaroo's fore-legs are very small; its hind legs and its tail immensely powerful, and these it uses for progression, rushing with

great hops over the country. There are very many animals which may be grouped as kangaroos, from the tiny kangaroo rat, about the size of an English water-rat, to the huge red kangaroo, which is over six feet high and about the weight of a sucking calf.

The kangaroo is harmless and inoffensive as a rule, but it can inflict a dangerous kick with its hind-legs, and when pursued and cornered, the "old man" kangaroo will sometimes fight for its life. Occasionally men's lives have been lost through approaching incautiously an "old man" kangaroo.

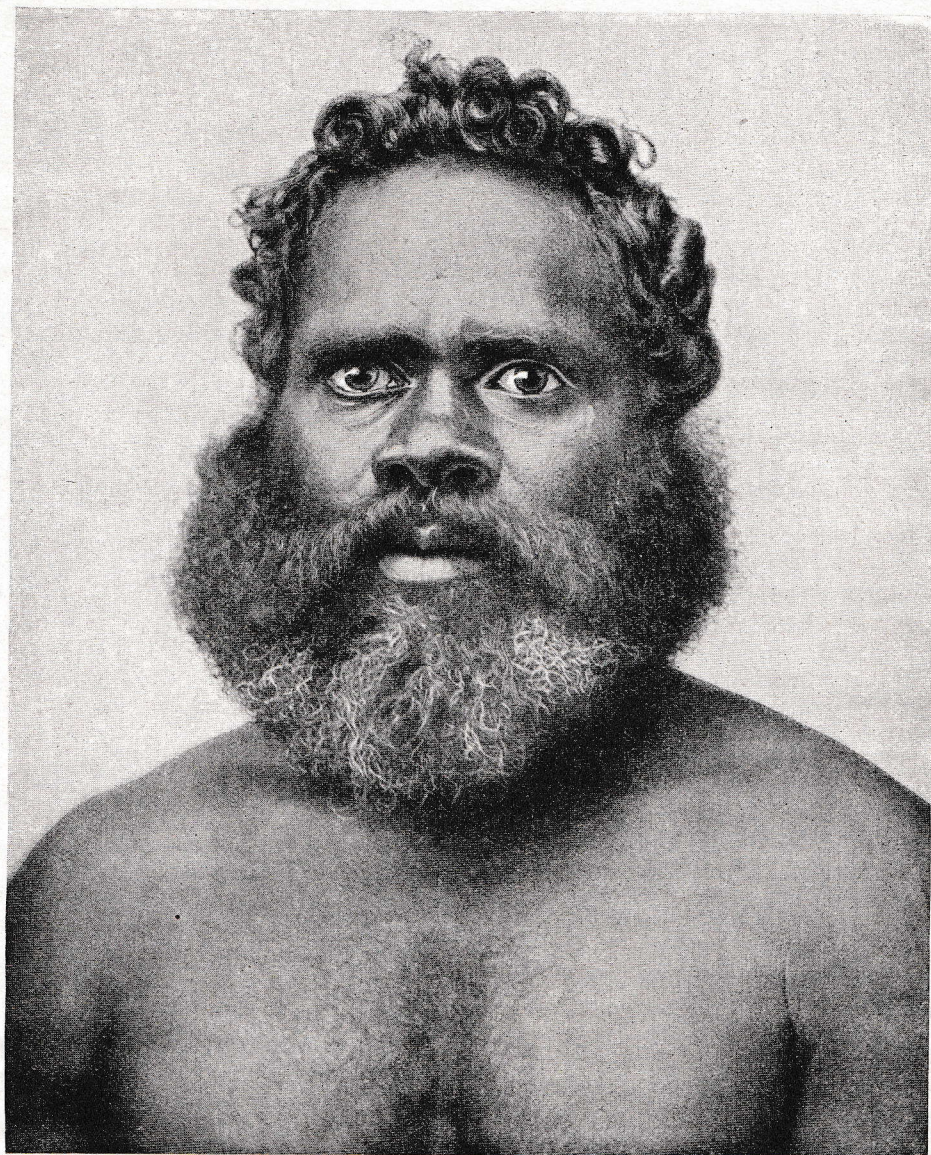
Of tree-inhabiting animals, the chief in Australia is the 'possum—which is not really an opossum but is somewhat like that American rodent, and so got



MAKKA-TIRA FIRE-MAKING IN THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

Makka-tira consists of the mother of fire, which is a strip of soft bean wood held by the feet, and the child of fire, which is a hardwood stick, twirled by the palms in the notched soft wood, with dry grass as tinder. Flame is produced in a minute. Bearded warriors disdain makka-tira. They rub their spear-throwers on their soft wood shields





#### ONE OF THE BLACKS WHO OWNED AUSTRALIA BEFORE THE WHITES CAME

This Warramunga is a member of a tribe whose kind have lived in Australia from very early times in so primitive a fashion that they have not even learned to till the ground or use more than a few simple stone and wooden implements. They are to-day only in a Stone Age state of civilization

its name. The possum is much hunted for its fur. Another characteristic Australian animal is the wombat, like a very large pig. It lives underground, burrowing vast distances. The wombat is a great nuisance in districts where there are irrigation canals; its burrows weaken the banks of the water channels and even cause serious collapses at times. Australia is very well provided with

serpents, rather too well provided, and the bush child has to be careful in regard to putting a hand in rabbit burrows or walking barefoot, as there are several varieties of venomous snake. But the snakes are not at all the great danger that some imagine. Lizards in great variety are found in Australia, the chief being one incorrectly called an iguana, which colloquial slang has changed to



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

'goanna. The 'goanna is an altogether repulsive creature. It feasts on carrion, on the eggs of birds, on birds, on the young of any creature. It grows to a great size, and will bite a man when cornered.

The Jew-lizard and the devil-lizard are two other horrible-looking denizens of the Australian forests, but in their cases an evil character does not match an evil face, for they are quite harmless. Spiders are common, but there is only one venomous one, a little black spider with a red spot on its back. Large spiders called (incorrectly) tarantulas, and credited by some with being poisonous, come into the houses. But they are not dangerous.

### House-eating and Bulldog Ants

Australia is rich in ants. There is one specially vicious ant called the "bulldog" ant, because of its pluck. Try to kill the bulldog ant with a stick, and it will face you and try to bite back until the very last gasp, never thinking of running away. The termite, or white ant, is very common and very mischievous in most parts of Australia. A colony of termites keeps its headquarters underground, and from those headquarters it sends out foraging expeditions to eat up all the wood in the neighbourhood.

If you build a house in Australia, you must be very careful indeed that there is no possibility of the termites being able to get to its timbers. Otherwise the joists will be eaten, the floors eaten, even the furniture eaten, and one day everything of wood in the house will collapse.

### Love-birds and Sheep-killing Crows

Australian birds are very numerous and very beautiful. The famous bird of paradise is found in several varieties in Papua and other islands along Australia's northern coast, and some very beautiful parrots flash through the Australian forests. The smallest, which is known as the grass parakeet or the "love-bird," is about the size of a sparrow. There are two fine cockatoos also in Australia, the white with a yellow crest, and the black, which has a beautiful red lining to its sable wings. A flock of black cockatoos in flight gives an impression of a sunset cloud,

its under-surface shot with crimson. The Australian crow is the best-hated bird in the world. An Australian bushman will travel a whole day to kill a crow. For, at the times when the sheep were lambing, or when owing to drought they were weak, he has seen the horrible cruelties of the crow. This evil bird will attack weak sheep and young lambs, tearing out their eyes, and leaving them to perish miserably. There have even been terrible cases where men, lost in the bush and perishing of thirst, have been attacked by crows and have been found still alive but with their eyes gone.

The most distinctively Australian bird is the kookaburra, or "laughing jackass," about the size of an owl, of a mottled grey colour. Its sly, mocking eye prepares you for its note, which is like a laugh, sardonic and rollicking.

### Grim Fun of the Laughing Jackass

The kookaburra seems to find much grim fun in this world, and is always disturbing the bush quiet with its curious "laughter." So near in sound to a harsh human laugh is the kookaburra's call that there is no difficulty in persuading new chums that the bird is deliberately mocking them. The kookaburra is supposed to kill snakes; it certainly is destructive to small vermin; so its life is held sacred in the bush.

Most of the trees are evergreen, and the presence of many abnormal flowers further accentuates the air of strangeness. To the casual observer the Australian bush is melancholy, even repelling. It is permeated, according to a local poet, with an air of "weird expectancy." But, with a closer knowledge, the somewhat austere savage beauty of the gum forests is alluring.

Exploring the Australia of to-day from Europe, Fremantle is the first place of call. It is the port of Perth, which is the capital of West Australia. That great State occupies nearly a quarter of the continent. But in population it is as yet the least important of the continental States, and not very much ahead of the little island of Tasmania. Still, West Australia is advancing



# AUSTRALIANS

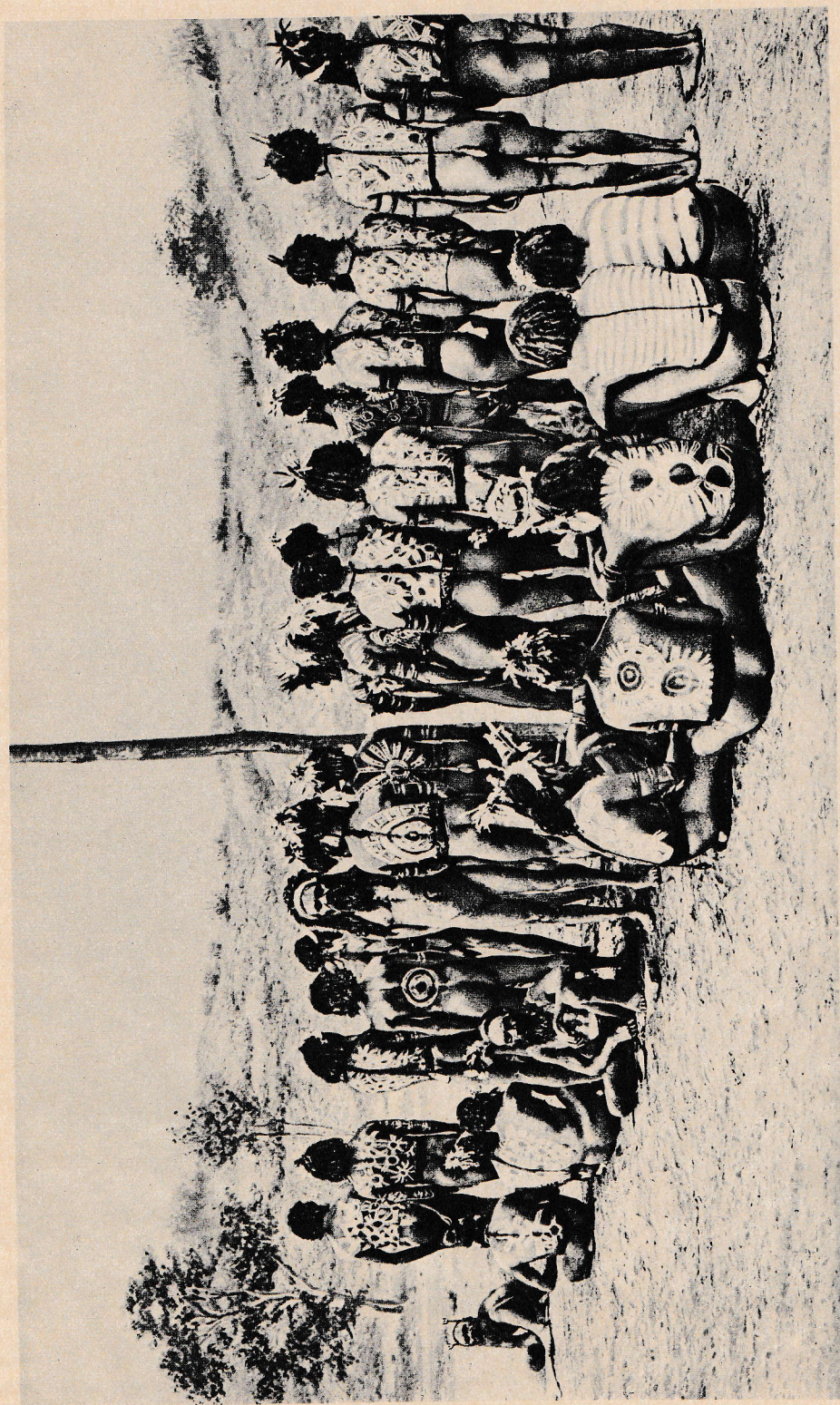
## *Black and White*



*Stockriders rounding up a herd. A magnificent spectacle of the joys of open-air life in Australia's great undeveloped cattle lands*

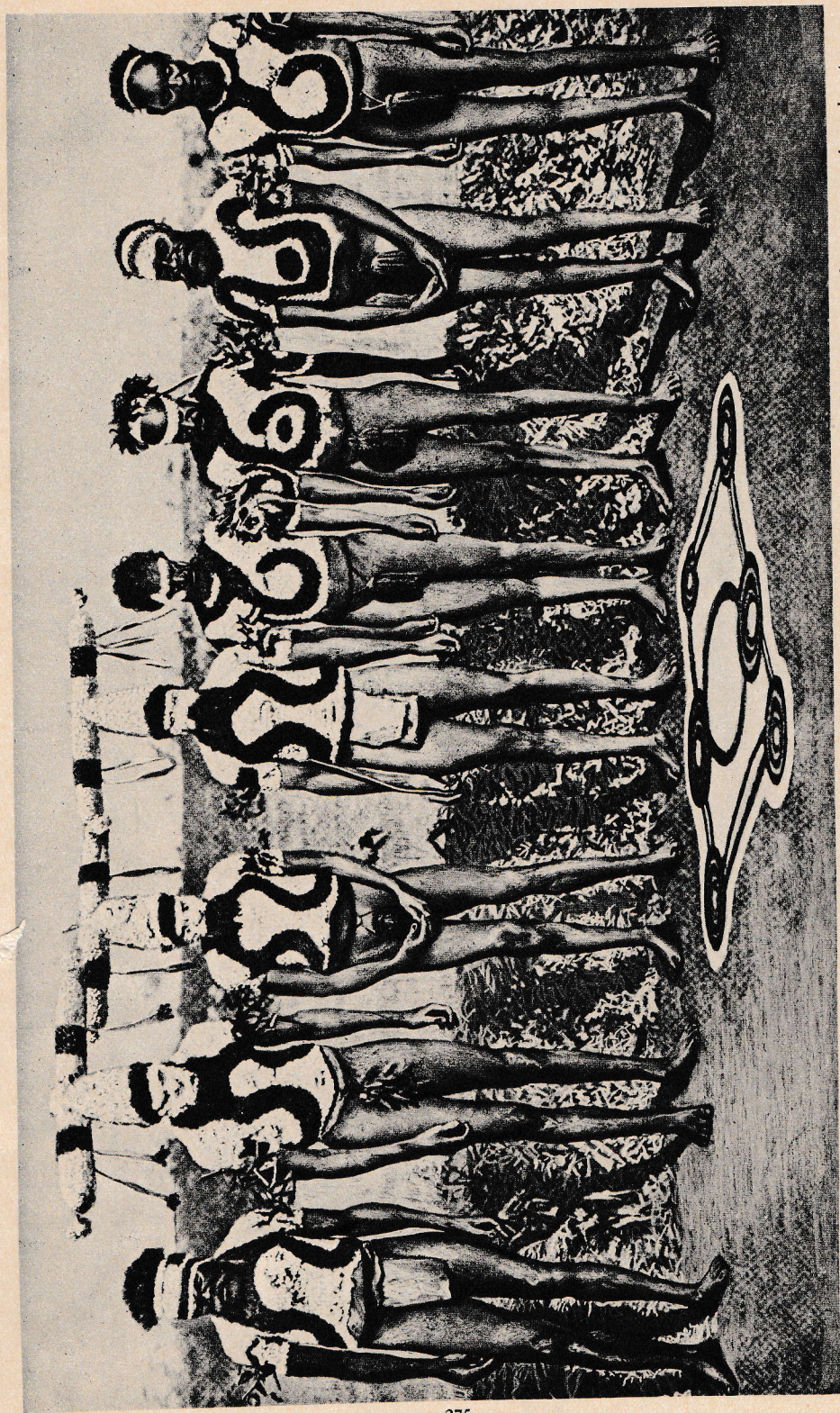
Photos on pages 274 and 281 from Spencer and Gillen's "Across Australia"; others by courtesy of Australian Commonwealth





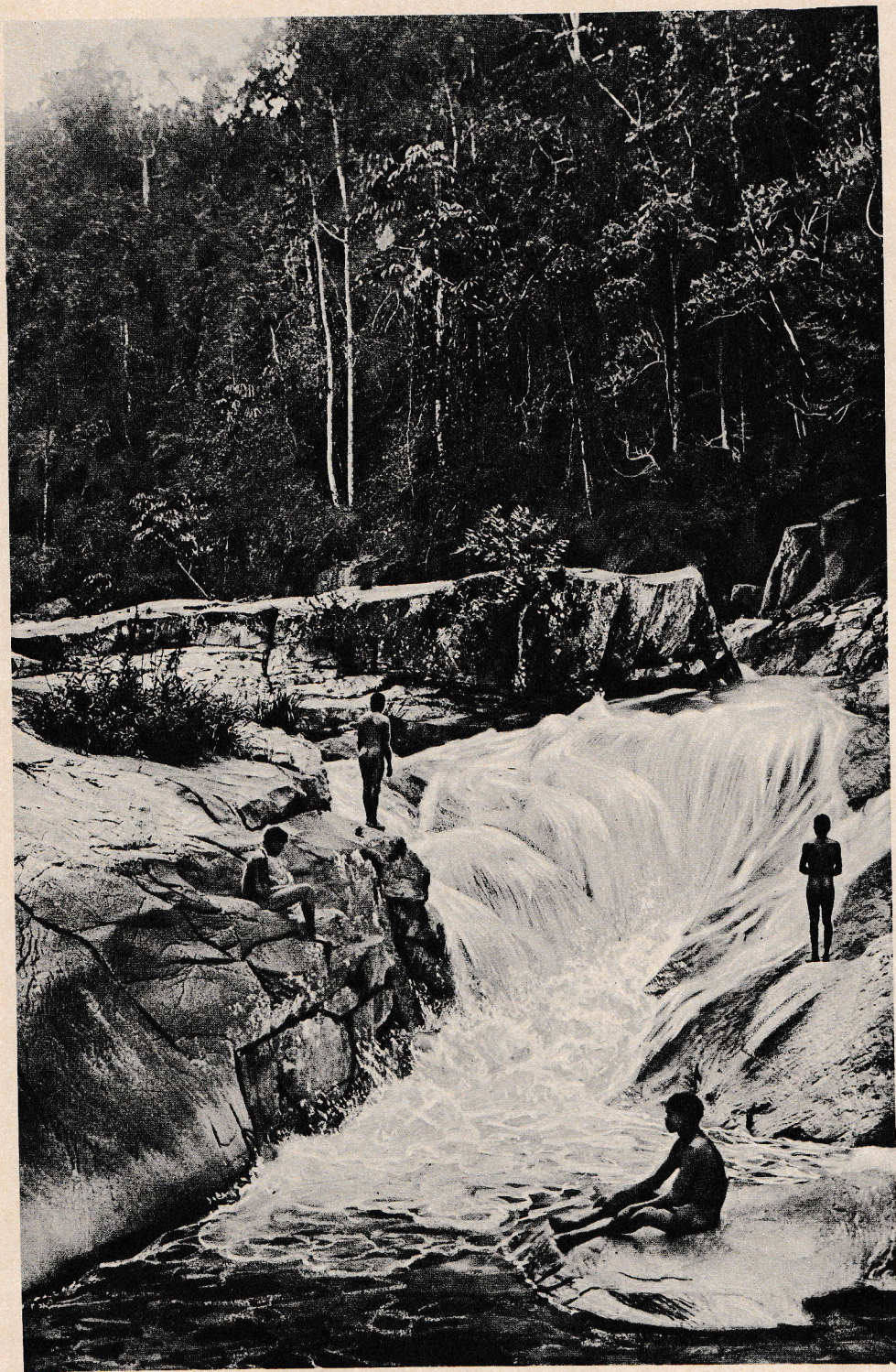
*The gathering round the totem pole. A "back" display of the artistic work of blackfellows, each design representing some sacred image, and showing a sense of the beauty of pattern, often dulled in modern men*





*The snake men working their magic. They are engaged in witchcraft to make edible snakes more abundant. As painted and decorated, each man is a kind of divine snake, with influence over ordinary snakes*





*The beauty of the Australian tropics. A romantic, lonely waterfall in a Northern Queensland forest, regarded as sacred by the blackfellows*





*Primeval man in his primeval home. Natives of Northern Queensland fishing with spears and long flat wooden blades in a river retreat*





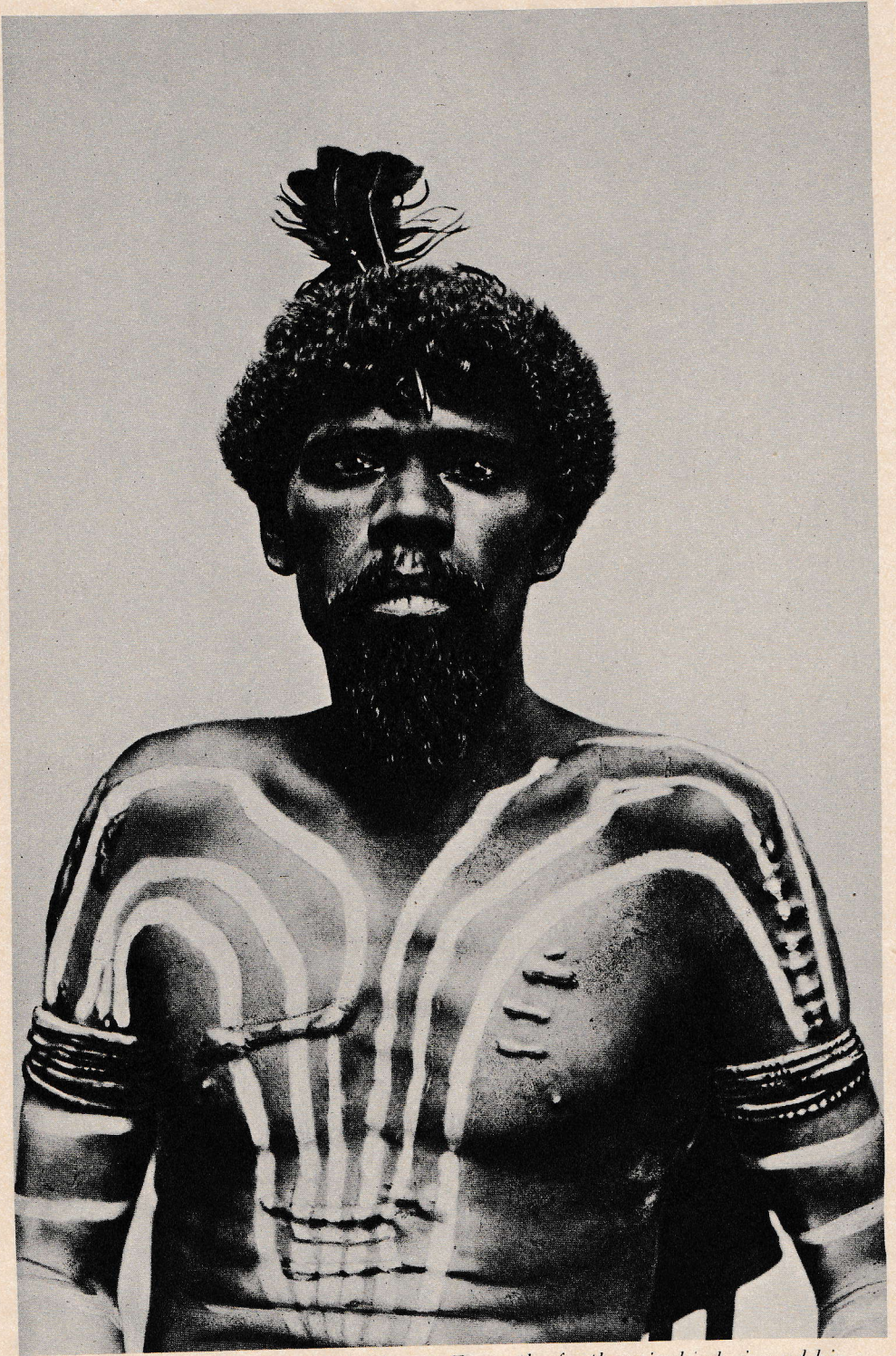
*Savage spearmen of the wild Nor'-West. They are the strongest and tallest of blackfellows, and use their great spears with deadly skill*





*Northern screw-pine jungle, with natives gathering orchids. Dense and dark within, these jungles are hard to penetrate by white men*





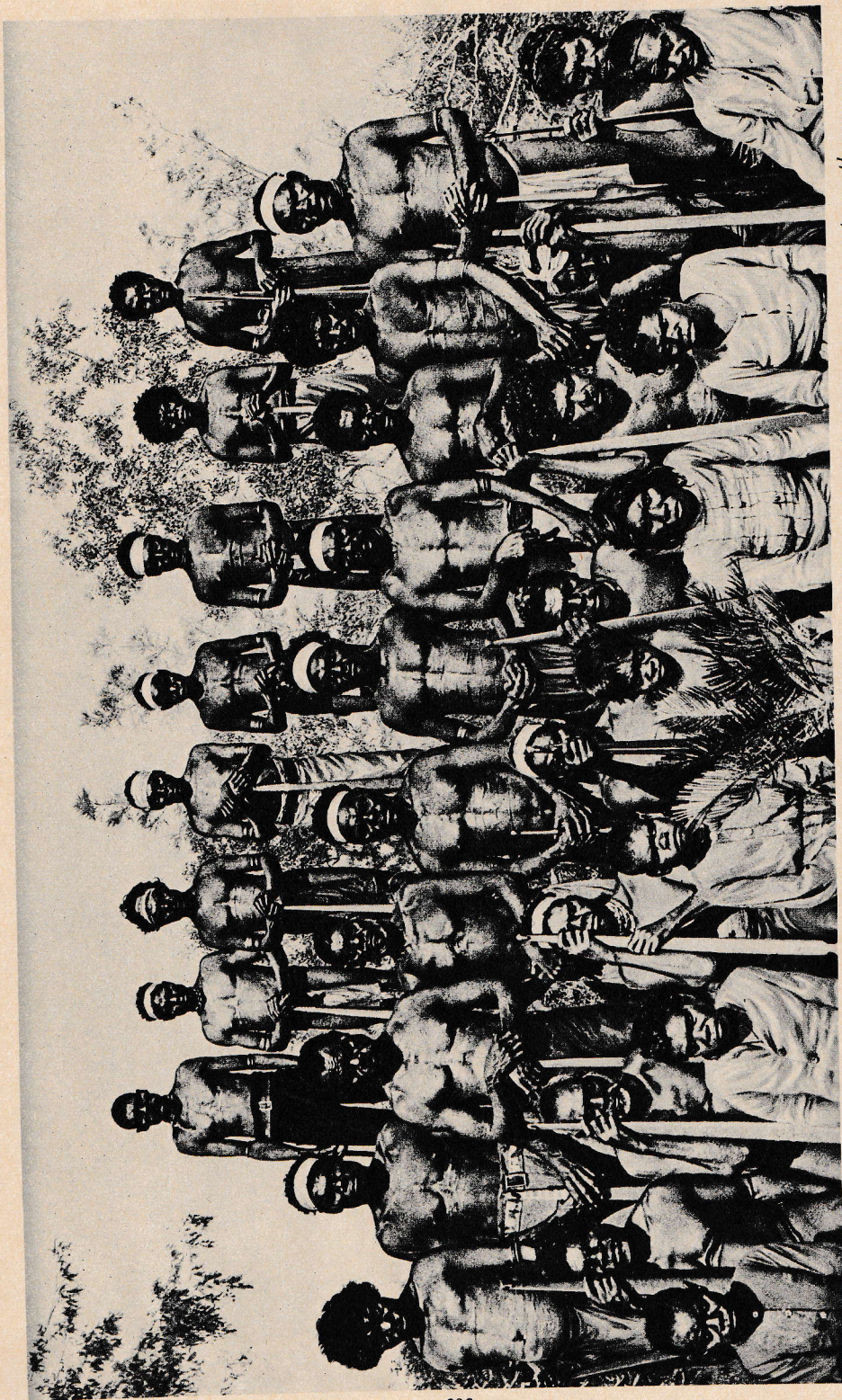
*Karundi warrior in all his glory. From the feathers in his hair and his armlets to the decorations of arms and chest, all is of magic meaning*





*The wizard of the Worgaia, a great medicine man of Central Australia, as the signs on his body show. He instructs tribes in mysteries*





*Tribesmen of North-Western Australia grasping their skilfully-fashioned wommera, or spear-throwers. Spears fixed in these are launched more surely and forcibly than if they were thrown by the unaided hand*





*While the billy boils. On the old wool track the drovers have pitched their camp by water and shade and, letting their horse graze, have set the billy up for the long, warm drink of tea*





*Australia in the making. Married soldiers home from the war are clearing bush from the land given to them for farm settlement by their Government. Hut and tent serve them until the farmhouse is built*





*Australia as it is made. The work of the pioneer farmer is complete. Out of good harvests he has built a farmstead, and with a pair of strong ploughing horses is working off the rest of his Government loan*





*Two workers on a State experimental farm making fine "pedigree" wheat by the delicate operation of cross-fertilising the pollen*





*Lumbermen sawing up timber in a hardwood forest. Australia ranks next to India in woodland wealth, most of which is as yet unexploited*





*Australia's fine wool clip starting on its way from a Riverina sheep run to Yorkshire's mills. The long, slow bullock team, with the bales, forming a lovely stream on the track to the railway*



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

quickly. On the north it has great pearl fisheries; inland it has great goldfields, which take a high rank in the world's list; and it is fast developing agricultural and pastoral riches.

It is possible to leave the steamer at Fremantle and go by train right across the western desert to the eastern cities. Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, is a charming city surrounded by vineyards, orange orchards, and almond and olive groves. In the season one may get for a penny all the grapes that one can possibly eat. Adelaide was founded by high-minded colonists from England, whose main idea was to seek in the New World a place where poverty and its evils would not exist. To a very large extent they succeeded. There are no slums in Adelaide, and no ragged children. Everywhere there is an air of quiet comfort.

### Floating Life on the Great Rivers

Leaving Adelaide, the train climbs the charming Mount Lofty mountains and then sweeps down on to the plains and crosses the Murray River near its mouth. The Murray is the greatest of Australian rivers. It rises in the Australian Alps, and gathers on its way to the sea the Murrumbidgee and the Darling tributaries. There is a curious floating life on these rivers. Nomad men roam along the banks making a living by fishing and doing odd jobs on the sheep stations they pass.

The Australian inland rivers are slow and sluggish, and fish such as trout, accustomed to clear, running waters, will not live in them. But in the smaller mountain streams, which feed the big inland rivers, trout thrive—they have been introduced from England and America—and provide good sport.

After crossing the Murray, the train passes through what used to be known as the "Mallee Desert," a stretch of country covered with mallee scrub—the mallee is a kind of small eucalyptus-tree. But this mallee scrub is not hopeless country. The scrub is beaten down by having great rollers drawn over it by horses. That in time kills it. Then the roots are dug up for firewood and

the land is sown with wheat. Quite good crops are now being got from the mallee when the rains are favourable. But in dry seasons the wheat withers off, and the farmers' labour is wasted.

It is proposed now to carry irrigation channels through this and similar country. When this is done there will be no more talk of desert in most parts of Australia. It will be conquered for the use of man, just as the American "Alkali Desert" is being conquered.

### Most Notable Sheep Land in the World

Melbourne—"Marvellous Melbourne," as its citizens like to have it called—is the next capital reached. Melbourne is built on the shores of the Yarra, where it empties into Hobson's Bay on Port Phillip, and its sea suburbs stretch along the beautiful sandy shores of that bay. The city is a handsome one, and its great parks are planted with fine English trees. Melbourne is at present the political capital of Australia, and here meets the Australian Parliament.

Leaving Melbourne, a fast and luxurious train takes the traveller through the farming districts of Victoria, past many smiling towns growing rich from the industry of men who graze cattle, grow wheat and oats and barley, make butter, or pasture sheep.

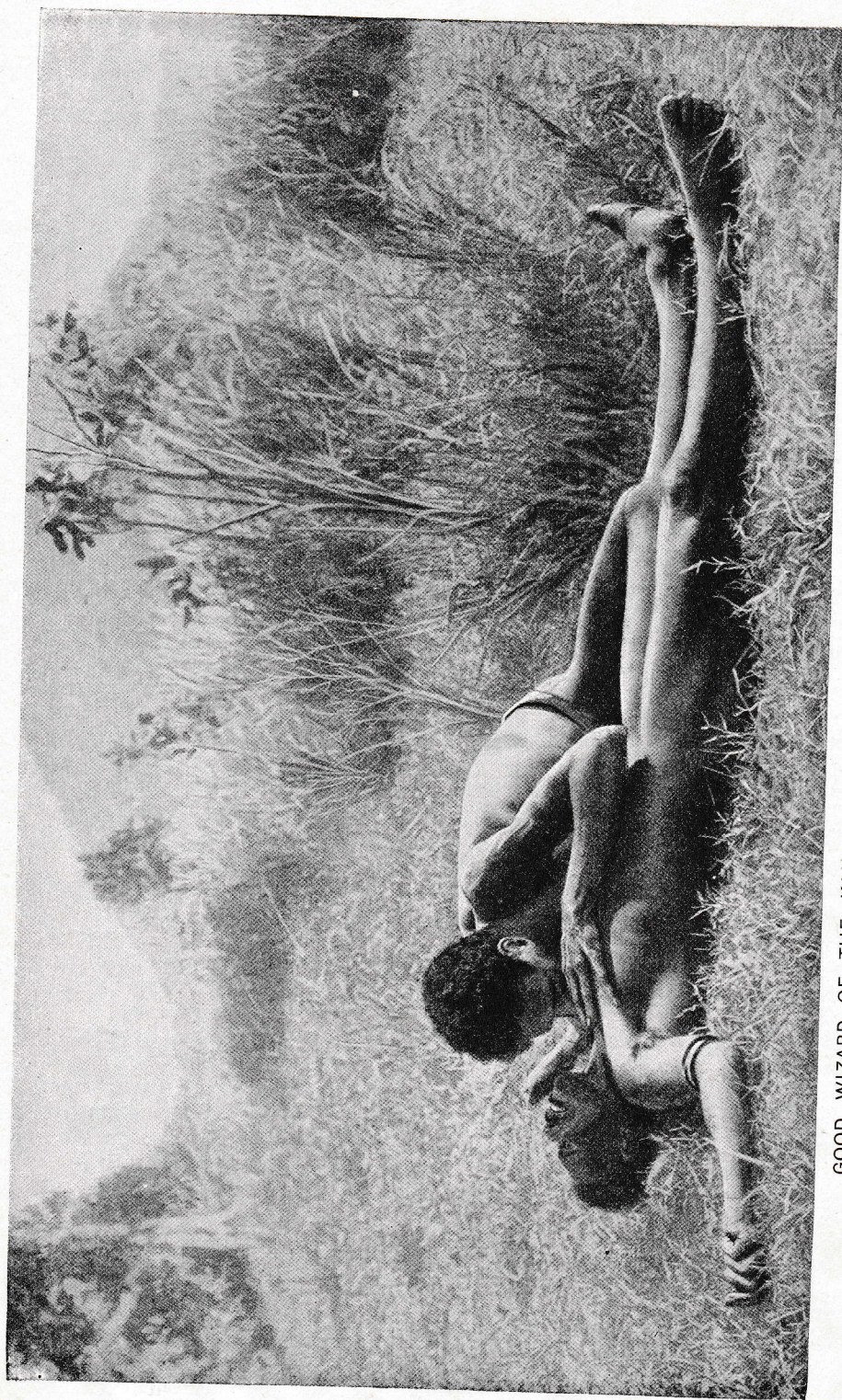
At Albury the train crosses the Murray again, this time near to its source, and New South Wales is entered. For many, many miles now the train will run through flat, grassed country on which great flocks of sheep graze.

This is the Riverina district, the most notable sheep land in the world. From here, and from similar plains running all along the western and northern borders of New South Wales, comes the fine merino wool which is necessary for first-class cloth making.

### The Romance of Australian Wool

The story of merino wool is one of the romances of modern industry. Before the days of Australia, Spain was looked upon as the only country in the world which could produce fine wool. Spain was not willing that British looms should have any advantage of her production, and the British woollen



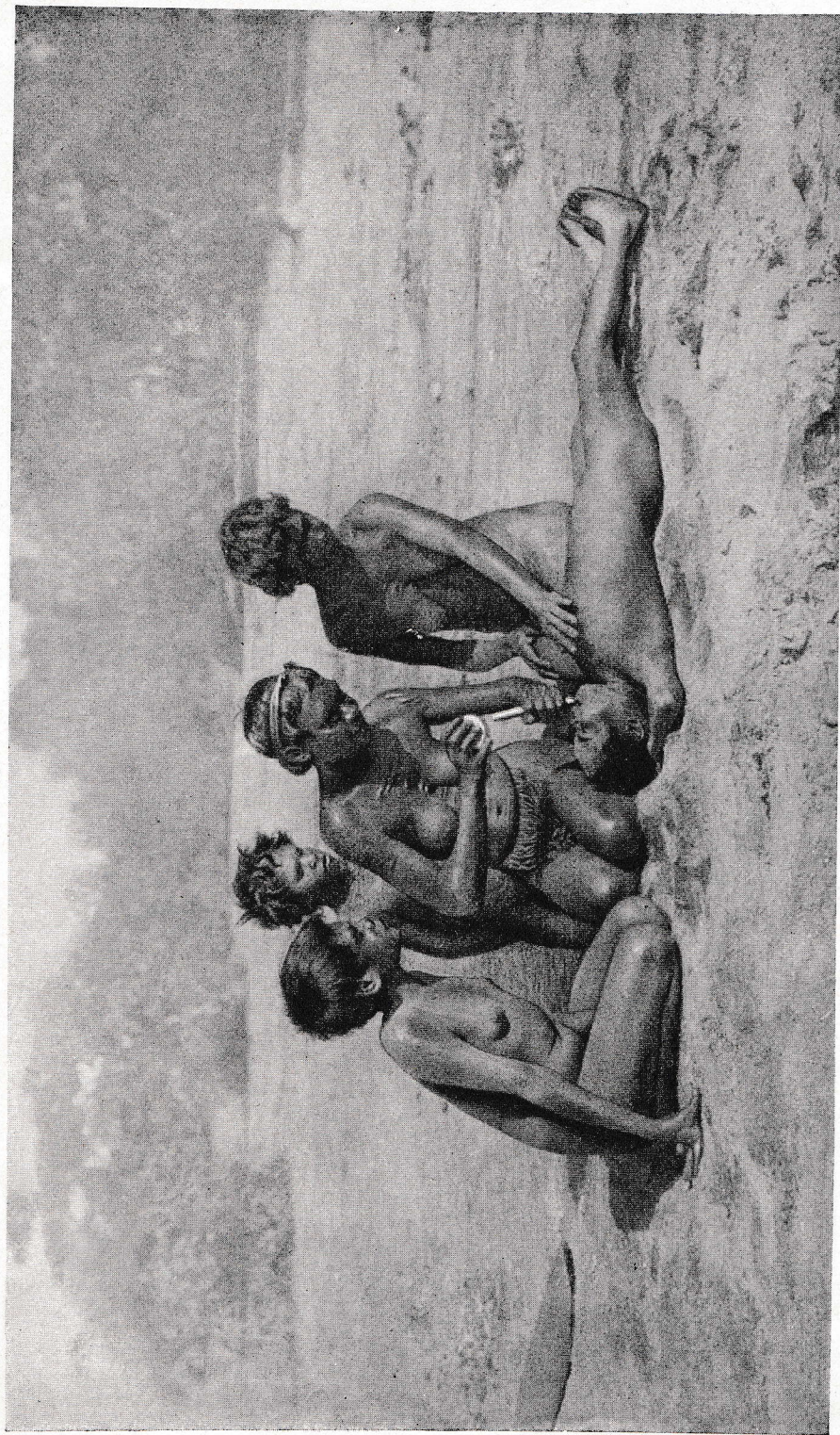


GOOD WIZARD OF THE KAKADU TRIBE SUCKING EVIL MAGIC FROM A SICK MAN

All maladies are thought by the aborigines to be caused by hostile witchcraft, usually an invisible poison bone or stick, "sent" by an enemy. For curative treatment, the patient lies down, and a tribal wizard gazes fixedly at him, thus projecting unseen crystals of power into him. Then, stretched upon the sufferer, he massages him, and, with much effort, sucks the poison bone out of him, invisibly, bit by bit.

Photo, Mr. Baldwin Spencer, from "Handbook for Australia 1914".





**OLD KAITISH WOMAN KNOCKING TOOTH OUT OF YOUNG GIRL TO MAKE HER MORE ATTRACTIVE**

All the girl's teeth were sound, but the men of the tribe had lost interest in teeth extraction as a magic mystery, and instead of making it a male privilege, as tongue-piercing still was, let women, and even girls, have their teeth knocked out. And they were keen on it. The tooth, having been loosened by pressure with a stick, is being knocked out with three sharp blows. Afterwards, the girl danced with pleasure!

*Photo, Spencer & Gillen's, "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*



## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

manufacturing industry, confined to the use of coarser staples, languished. Now Australia produces the finest wool of the world, a wool finer, more elastic, longer in staple than any dreamed of a century ago.

The train climbs up from the plains to the Blue Mountains and rushes down

the coast slope towards Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, the chief commercial city of Australia, and one of the great ports of the Empire. It is built on Port Jackson, said to be the finest harbour in the world. Leaving Sydney to go on to Brisbane, the railway passes through the Kurringai Chase, one of the great National Parks of New South Wales, along the fertile Hawkesbury and Hunter Valleys, which grow Indian corn and lucerne and oranges and melons; up the New England mountains through a country which owes its name to the fact that the high elevation gives it a climate somewhat like that of England; then into Queensland along the rich Darling Downs studded with wheat farms, dairy farms, and cattle ranches, and finally to Brisbane, a prospering semi-tropical town which is the capital of the northern State of Queensland. Farther north are the sugar-growing lands of tropical Australia.

In its system of government Australia is purely democratic. All adults have equal political power. The method of administration copies the British model in every detail as to the Courts of Justice, the newspapers, etc. Loyalty to the British Crown is sturdy; the Prince of Wales' birthday, as well as the King's birthday, is kept as a public holiday, and pride in the Empire is fervent. Since 1884 Australia has insisted upon helping in every war in which Great Britain was involved, and her aid in the South



### LIVING EDIBLE BULB TOTEM IN BLOSSOM

This native is magicking edible bulbs. Dressed in white birds' down as the bulb, with a headdress for the blossom, he is the totem magician, forcing all the food bulbs to flower and multiply for the food of his tribe

*Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia"*



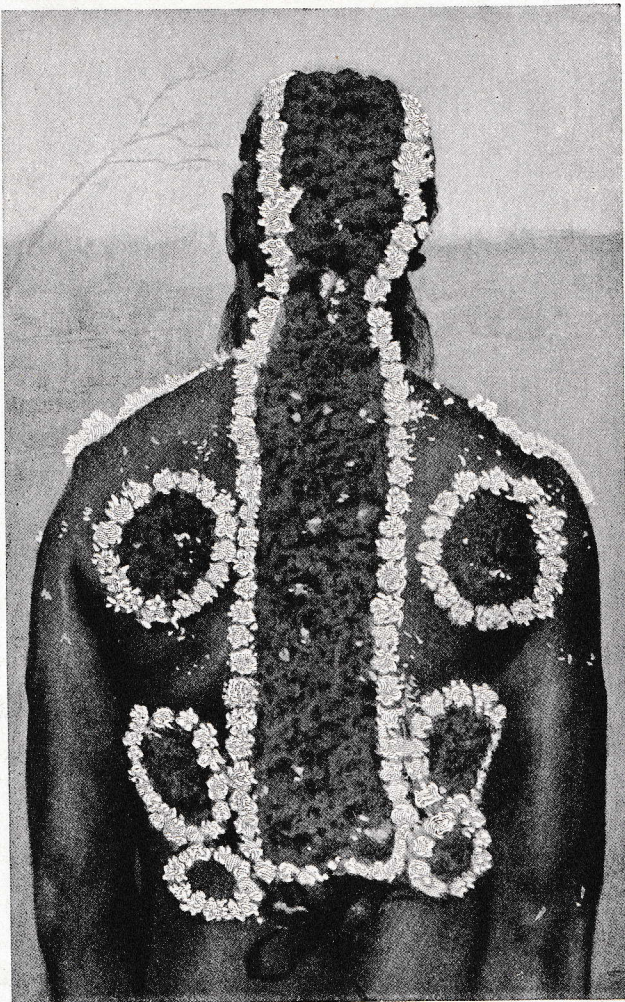
## AUSTRALIA, THE ISLAND CONTINENT

African War and in the Great War was of significant value.

The political institutions and ideals of Australia are of deep interest to the sociological observer. The government of Australia is largely in the hands of the Labour Party. Extreme democracy is thus enthroned triumphant. Nor is this the accidental result of a suddenly arising set of circumstances. It is the outcome of thirty years of steady growth of the Labour Party. The people of Australia, to be precise, have determined on a system of government which will take no account of social distinctions, and which will aim, in the first and last place, at securing the best possible conditions of living for the great mass of the people. It is a system which is hostile at once to the millionaire and the pauper.

Yet it is not a system of mere materialism, aiming at high wages and short hours of labour. It has much idealism. It has few of the faults which are considered inseparable from advanced democracy, little of class jealousy, little of extravagance, but very definite ideas of sacrifice and of service. It does not propose confiscation of private property; it has a robust national and imperial pride, which would be stigmatised in some quarters in Britain as "Jingoism."

That this world owes to all some happiness, and to each man the full measure of happiness his own energy earns, is the cardinal principle of Australian sociological thought. There is no worship of the "dollar." Riches give



GRASS-SEED WIZARD OF THE KAITISH CLAN

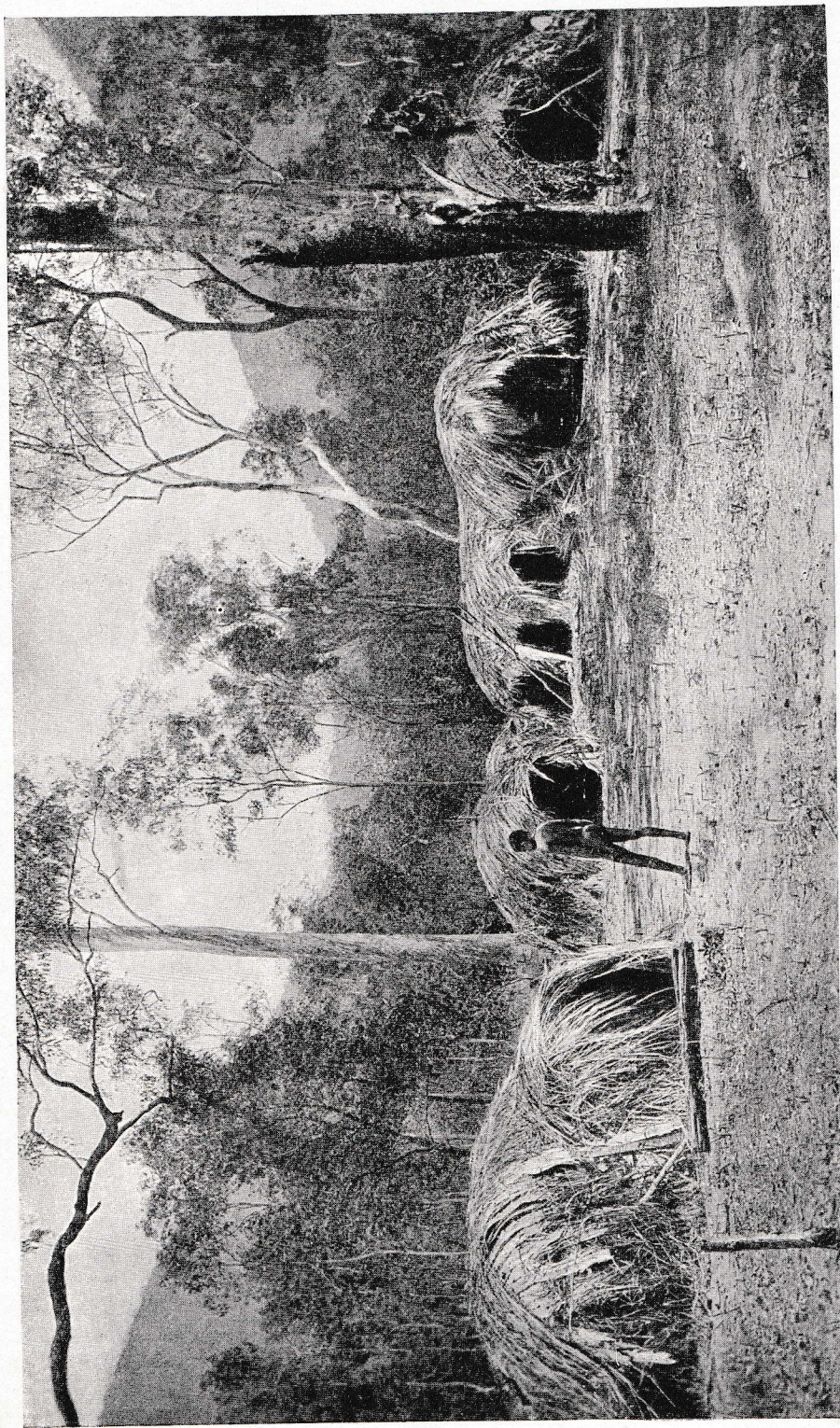
Over head, back, and chest is stuck, with his own blood, a band of red-ochred down, edged with pipeclayed down. This represents grass seed. The circles symbolise baked grass seed cakes. He makes grass grow by his wizardry

*Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia"*

no passport to respect. More leisure and more pleasure, rather than more money, is the common Australian aim.

In time Australia will have a population of fifty, instead of five, millions. Her area of good land suitable for white settlement would easily support one hundred millions. She aims to keep to her present ideal of preserving a purely British type living under British institutions—one race under one flag holding a whole island continent.





# MASTERPIECES OF DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE AMID THE COASTWISE MOUNTAINS OF QUEENSLAND

The aborigines are the worst builders on earth. They rank lower than nest-making birds. Usually a wind-screen of bark is shelter enough for their naked bodies in winter. But this Queensland tribe has learnt hut-making from Papuans, and has constructed communal wurleys of sticks and bark, with grass coverings so arranged that tropic rain can stream off their haystack-like dwellings. Regarding the interiors, the less said the better



# Australia

## II. The Native Races & Their Customs

By Northcote W. Thomas

Author of "Natives of Australia"

IT was once believed that Australia could be regarded, from the point of view of mankind, no less than of the lower animals, as a museum of primitive forms; but we now know from the study of the languages that there are three distinct zones, of which the northern is not Australian, but rather Papuan, and linguistic data are supported by the results derived from the investigation of custom and technology; in brief, Australia has been exposed to outside influences, although the true aboriginal has to-day reached a stage in civilization hardly higher than that of men of the Stone Age. The aboriginal—wrongly called a black-fellow, for he is dark chocolate in colour—is a nomad, who knows neither pottery nor metal work; he has no domesticated animals, for the dingo is at most tamed, and he does not till the ground, depending for his sustenance on snakes and lizards, emus, grubs, and simple vegetable food.

Over a large part of the southern half of the continent, together with much of Queensland, the old native life has vanished for ever; elsewhere European diseases, alcohol, and clothing are playing havoc, so that to-day tribes formerly spread over vast territories are herded together on reservations.

South-west of the Gulf of Carpentaria lies an area of more than 100,000 square miles, the tribes of

which are relatively untouched and yet well known. Some of the best known are the Arunta, Warramunga, Binbinga; and the Kamilroi are an important New South Wales tribe. Food and water are scarce for most of the year, and the local groups range in size from twenty to a hundred persons; in times of plenty they are smaller, for they are not tied to the water-holes, but they gather at times in larger numbers to celebrate rites associated with their ancestors. Some of these have as their object the increase in the supply of animal or vegetable food; they often



STURDY YOUNG GILBERT RIVER TRIBESMAN

There was some trouble in the early days with the warlike northern tribesmen, of which this strong savage Queenslanders is an example, but many of them have settled down on the ranches and taken an interest in the open-air work





**CHOCOLATE-TINTED AND FRIZZY-HAIRED WOMEN AND GIRLS OF THE TROPIC BUSH COUNTRY**

It is hard to judge the age of Australian girls. Many of them begin to look old at twenty-five years, for they are, in some ways, the worst treated women in the world. Not only do they do all the work, but the older men, for whom they form the only practical wealth in life, unite in an elaborate system of terrorisation and trickery of women. The best foods are taboo to them, and they are excluded from most important tribal ceremonies. This group wears more clothing than usual



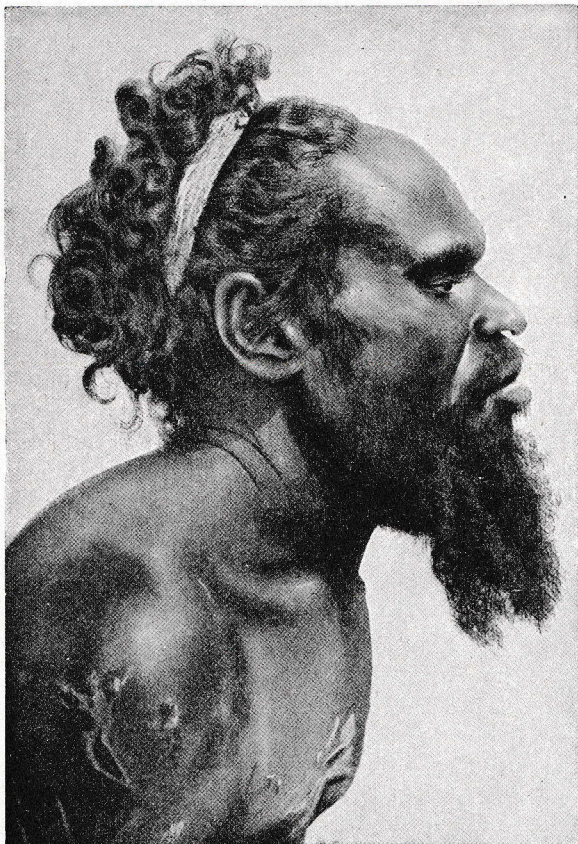


QUAINT CORROBOREE WITH WOMEN MIMES AND DANCERS AND PIPELAVED CHORUS OF SPEARMEN

In their solemn prancings and dancings of magic aims, only men are usually allowed to perform, with the elders as leaders. Women are excluded entirely. But in everyday corroborees women can take part, and the spectators serve as chorus, singing monotonously, when they do not join a dance. All are excellent mimics, like these two girls in decorated skirts, who pretend to weep in a ring of whitened men with spear-throwers



## AUSTRALIA: THE NATIVE RACES



### WARRAMUNGA MAN'S PROUD DISFIGUREMENT

His nostrils broke under the weight of the large wooden spike with which they were pierced, and, following his ideas of beauty, he has pulled out the hairs of his forehead and upper lip

*Photo Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia"*

consist in the imitation of the cry of a bird or animal, wonderfully lifelike, but rather monotonous for the European ear when it is repeated hundreds if not thousands of times.

But none of them would dream of curtailing the rites handed down, as they are, from the ancestors, who are said to have been human beings imperfectly formed, and only fully developed by the aid of demi-gods from the West, who released their limbs and formed their features.

The ancestors are associated with all sorts of rites which have for their purpose the initiation of young men into the tribe; they include all sorts of mutilations, from simple scarring of the body in the Urabunna tribe to the so-called

"mika" operation, which is so serious as even to endanger life at times.

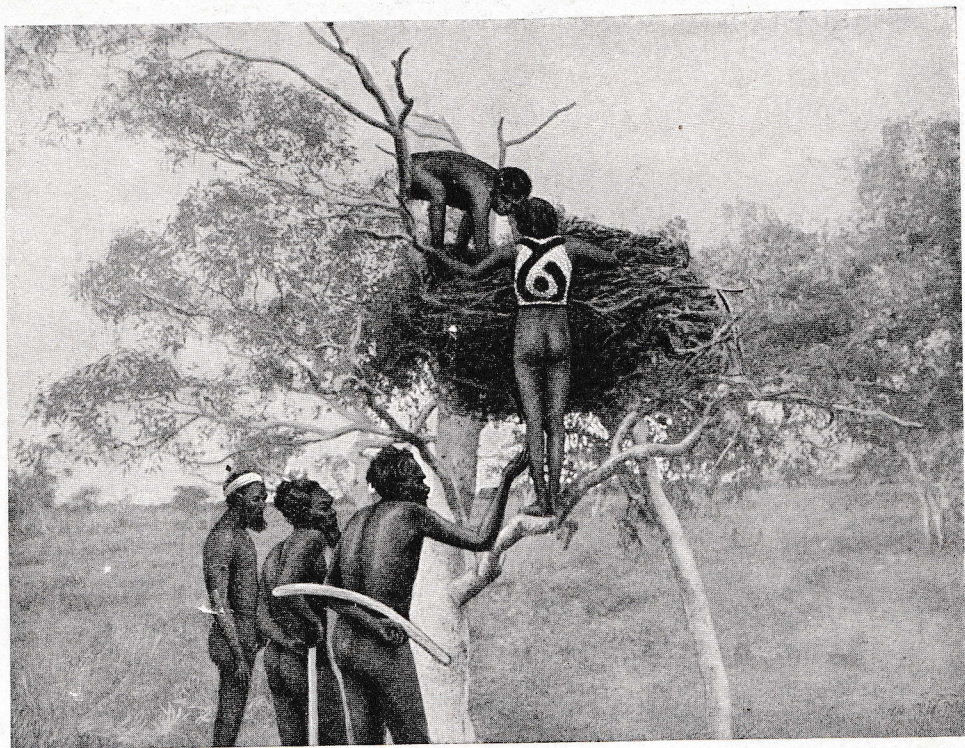
It is of interest to note that as a youth climbs, stage by stage, to the highest grade, a process that may take twenty or thirty years, he becomes free of the food taboos which are imposed upon him as soon as he is old enough to take part in ordinary camp work. Not only are the choicest dainties, such as emu fat, forbidden to him when he is young, but he must actually procure the forbidden food and hand over his store untouched to any man who might lawfully become his father-in-law.

If he neglects his duties he will suffer not only from evil magic, but from personal chastisement, for the aggrieved man, when the boy is thrown in the air during the initiation ceremonies, strikes him with no gentle hand as he rises and falls in the air amid the group of men. If he goes further and actually makes a meal of one of the forbidden dainties, he incurs such penalties as blindness, deformity, or non-growth of the beard—an important

feature in the appearance of the old men. Everywhere the central idea of the restrictions is to reserve the choicest dainties for the old men; and so firmly ingrained is the belief in magic that, till white men come on the scene, no youth will venture to violate a single injunction; probably if he did, he would get a severe fright, or he might even, in the course of the initiation rites, simply disappear and be known no more.

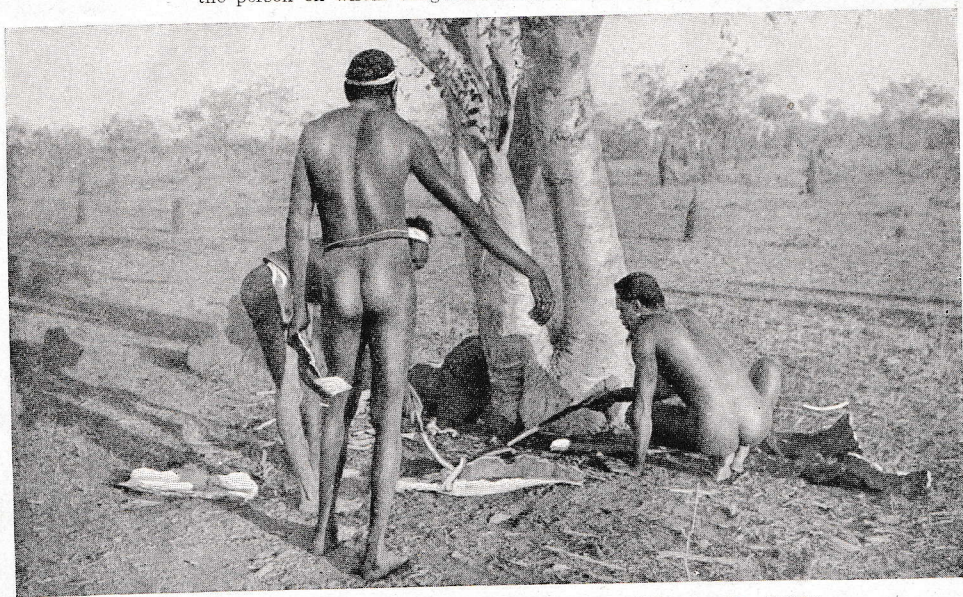
A boy too young to be initiated will hear, at certain times, a strange noise which warns him away from the sacred ground; he is told that it is the voice of a great being called by the Aruntas "Twanyika." It is only after his initiation that he learns the truth; the "voice" is the sound of the instrument





#### SEARCHING A TREE-GRAVE FOR EVIDENCE OF A WIZARD MURDERER

The aborigines do not understand natural death. It is reckoned murder by magic. These Warramunga men are examining the tree-grave of a kinsman, three days after his death, hoping to find some trace of visiting bird or beast. This would indicate the totem of the killer, and further rites would show the person on whom vengeance should be violently executed



#### WHEN THE TREE-GRAVE PERIOD OF BURIAL IS OVER

Happily, no totem marks were found. The body remained for a year in the tree. Now the kinsmen have returned, and raked the skeleton to the ground, after asking permission of the dead man's spirit. The youngest man smashes the skull with a stone axe, and all the bones, except one arm-bone, are moved with sticks into a strip of bark

*Photos, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*





#### WARRAMUNGA BURIAL IN WHITE ANT-HILL FOR REINCARNATION

Some Australian tribes eat their dead as a sacred duty, to ensure reincarnation among kinsmen. The tribes of the Northern Territory have a shorter way of burial. Having collected the bones from the tree-grave, they knock off the top of a white ants' mound, slide the remains down the centre, and replace the top of the hill. Only an arm-bone is kept



#### THE MYSTIC ARM-BONE IS PREPARED FOR TOTEM RITES

Here opens the grand ceremony over the detached arm-bone of the dead man. The oldest tribesman carefully wraps it in paper-bark and ties it with opossum fur string, decorating one end with feathers. He places it in the hollow trunk of a gum-tree, and all the burial party then hunt in the scrub for a day. They have to get the funeral meats for the totem ceremonies

*Photos, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*





**BRINGING IN THE ARM-BONE AND FUNERAL MEATS TO THE FATHER OF DEAD**  
 Disguised in leaves, the burial men have arrived. One man has the bone covered with boughs, another has the meats, while the third holds only an empty mass of leaves. After walking twice round the group, the man on the left is handing the paper-bark-wrapped bone to the seated father of the dead



**WAILING OVER THE RELIC OF THE YEAR-LONG DEAD TRIBESMAN**  
 The handing over of the arm-bone was the signal for the women to sit down, while the men bent in silence over the relic. Then the women broke out into a piercing wail that grew louder when the father of the dead passed the bone to a tribal sister, an aged woman, to keep till the final ceremony

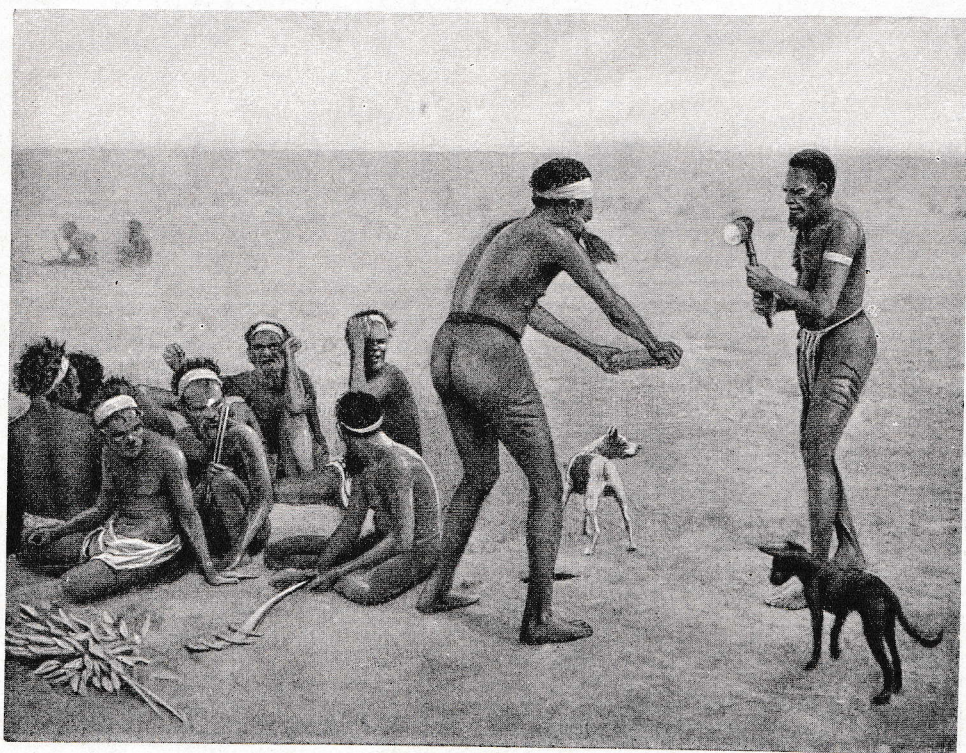
*Photos. Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*





#### OLD WOMEN IN CAMP PREPARING FOR THE LAST RITES

The woman with face whitened by pipeclay has the arm-bone in its paper-bark case. Another woman has cooked snakes, to be eaten by the tribal elders in a totem ceremony. The younger women, having cut their thighs and heads in mourning, are retired out of sight, but the pet dingos stay

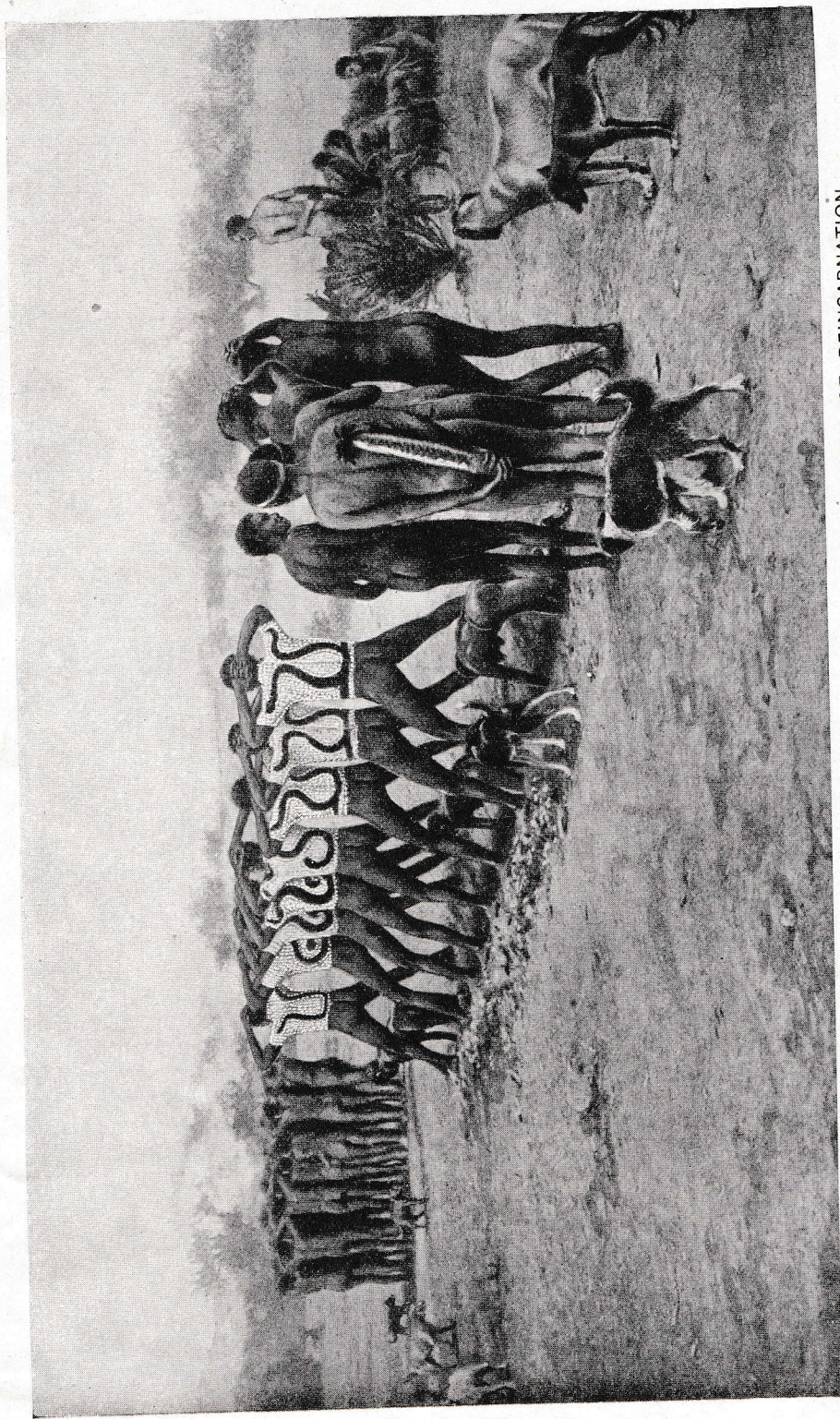


#### THE BREAKING AND BURIAL OF THE DEAD MAN'S ARM-BONE

In the last ceremony the bone was snatched from the pipeclayed old woman by the brother of the dead. He held it out in its covering to an old man, armed with a stone axe, who smashed it at a blow. It was at once thrust into the hole in the ground, visible behind the right leg of the brother

*Photos, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia." Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*





# UNITING THE DEAD WITH HIS SNAKE TOTEM FOR A STRANGE KIND OF REINCARNATION

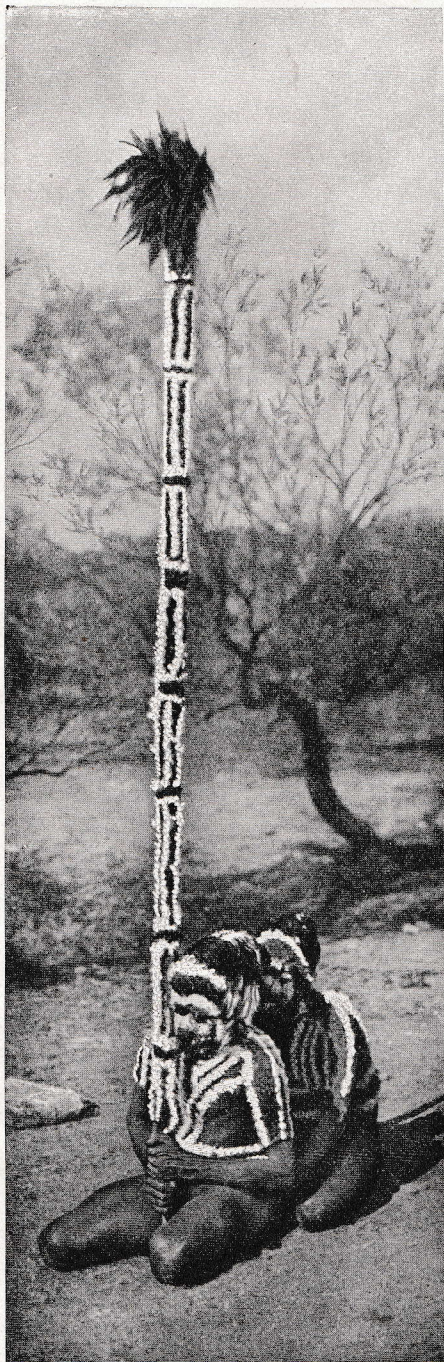
Before the bone was buried, arrangements were made with the snake totem. He was painted on the ground, close to the burial pit and a trench. Decorated men straddled the trench, and women crawled beneath them. The last woman can be seen carrying behind her back the arm-bone, which was thrown into the pit.

Thus was the dead gathered unto his totem, to reappear as a baby of changed sex

*Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*



## AUSTRALIA : THE NATIVE RACES



RITUAL OF ARUNTA ANT POLE  
Adorned in white down, two men are acting  
the part of women searching at the roots  
of a wattle-tree for ants and ants' eggs  
to eat, thus to magick their food supply

Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia"

known to European children as a bull-roarer—a thin slab of wood whirled round at the end of a string, which produces an awe-inspiring, roaring groan.

In the Arunta tribe these objects are known as *churinga*, as are also stone objects of similar form. One or two are handed to the initiated youth with strict injunctions not to show them to the women and children; he is told that the sacred ancestors actually carried about the very objects now put in his charge for a time. He takes them in his hand in fear and trembling and prepared to learn more of sacred matters, provided he be a serious youth, and not given to womanish chatter; he also learns more of magic.

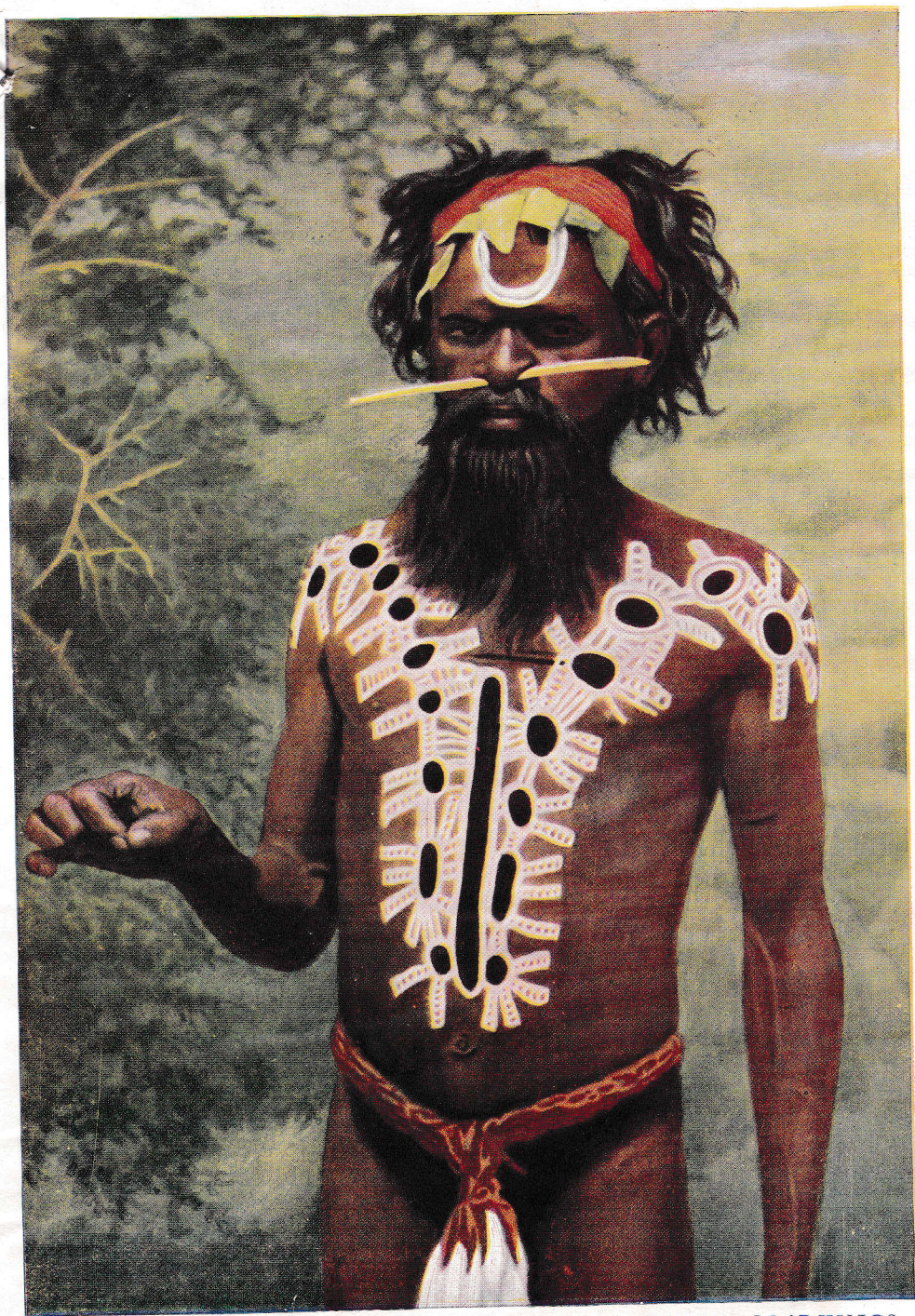
The rites in their present form were apparently confined in the main to the northern tribes; elsewhere they were associated, not with ancestors, but with gods like *Baiame*, probably introduced by immigrants, or with an "All-Father" like *Mungangaua*, a more purely aboriginal god.

But evil magic was probably common to all the tribes. Usually only a small proportion of a tribe claimed magical powers; but among the Arunta and their neighbours anyone, man or woman, can perform the necessary rites; even here, however, some kinds of magic, such as leechcraft and the "smelling out" of evil magicians, is confined to the men.

Of other magic rites the commonest is known as "pointing." The implement is usually a stick or bone into which evil power is "sung"—i.e., the power of the implement depends upon curses repeated by the performer, and the stick or bone serves as a conductor along which the death-dealing force is projected towards the victim; if it followed a wrong course it might return upon the sender with fatal results.

In the south of Australia simple burial was the rule; but among the tribes here considered there are three well-marked series of customs. First, the lamentation and burial (or exposure on a platform); second, the discovery of the murderer—for magic of some sort accounts for death in most cases;





### *AUSTRALIA: THE MEDICINE MAN & HIS MAGIC MARKINGS*

His secrets consist principally in the power of projecting certain magic crystals into the patient's body and the art of looking solemn. The design on his head, partly hidden by leaves, is the hand of the Oruncha, the mythical creature from whom he derives his powers; the long black line represents the Oruncha himself, and round it in a sacred pattern are figured the magic healing crystals. His attitude probably indicates that he is holding a crystal. Through the holes in his nose is thrust another magic object, the nature of which is unknown. (See also page 290)



151



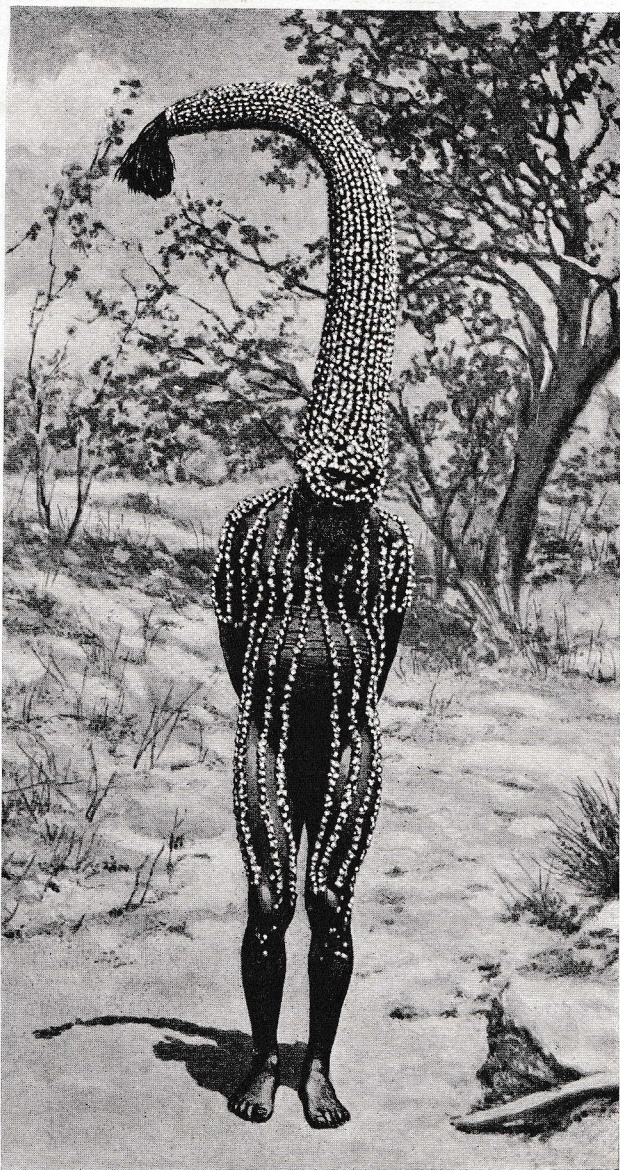
and finally, a year or two later, the sending of the dead man's spirit to his own place by means of rites connected with the now fleshless bones. Perhaps the most extraordinary feature is that the lamentation—consisting of piercing wails and howls accompanied by gashes, self-inflicted, across the thighs, so deep in some cases that the mourner, with his muscles nearly severed, is unable to stand—takes place while the patient is still alive.

Much the same scene is enacted when death has supervened; men and women rush about with pointed sticks and clubs, cutting themselves and each other, no one attempting to ward off blows. By the light of a few fires may be seen a naked, howling crowd, streaming with blood, rushing wildly round the camp for an hour or more, till the corpse is carried off to a tree some distance away and laid on a platform of boughs. After this the camp is moved.

Apart from rites such as those described, life is somewhat monotonous, save for corroborees or dances. The men lounge about, making new or mending old weapons, among which are spear and spear-thrower, boomerang and club; sometimes they hunt the larger animals, such as kangaroo, opossum, and the like; or news may be brought that a sitting emu has been found, and all sally forth to drive it into a long net. In the intervals women and children collect the ordinary food—lizards, snakes, and such small

game—together with the grass seed, which is the staple nourishment, ground up and made into hard, flat cakes.

One form of excitement is paying a visit to a strange camp. Two minutes suffice for packing up. The man stalks on, bearing only his shield and weapons;



EMU MAN PERFORMING THE TOTEM MYSTERY

His headdress of twigs, human hair, and birds' down represents the neck and head of the sacred totem of his group. He is working magic to make emus abundant for the hunters of his tribe

*Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia"*



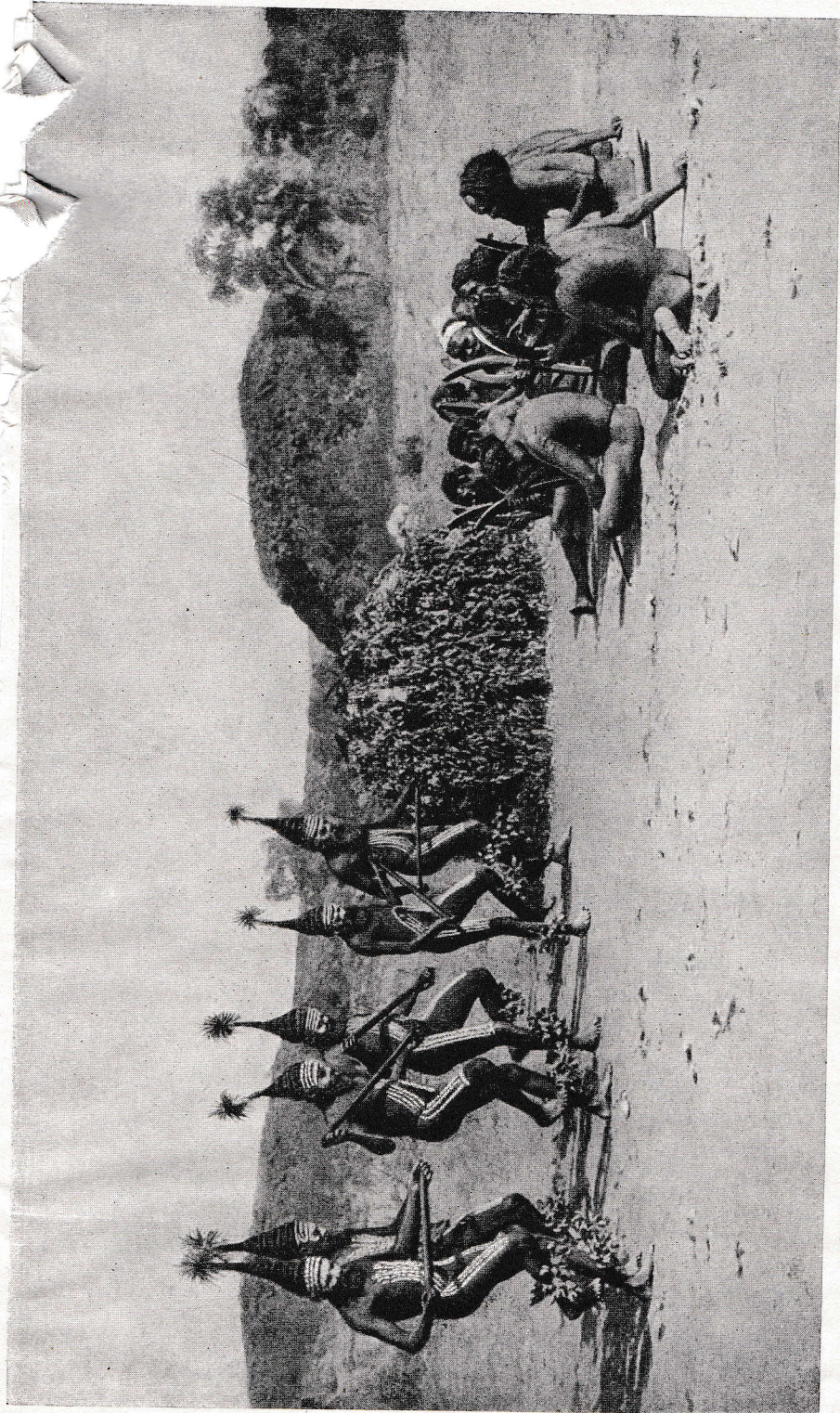


ARUNTA TRIBESMEN OF THE CENTRAL WASTE PREPARING A NEW CORROBOREE

Life is simple, women do most of the work, and men have much leisure. So when there is no great totem rite or other ceremony, they make a dance or corroboree on a ground where flat grinding-stones are kept. After discussing the dances, they undo their kangaroo skin bandicoot tails, feathers, paints, and birds' down, paint each other, and make their ornaments

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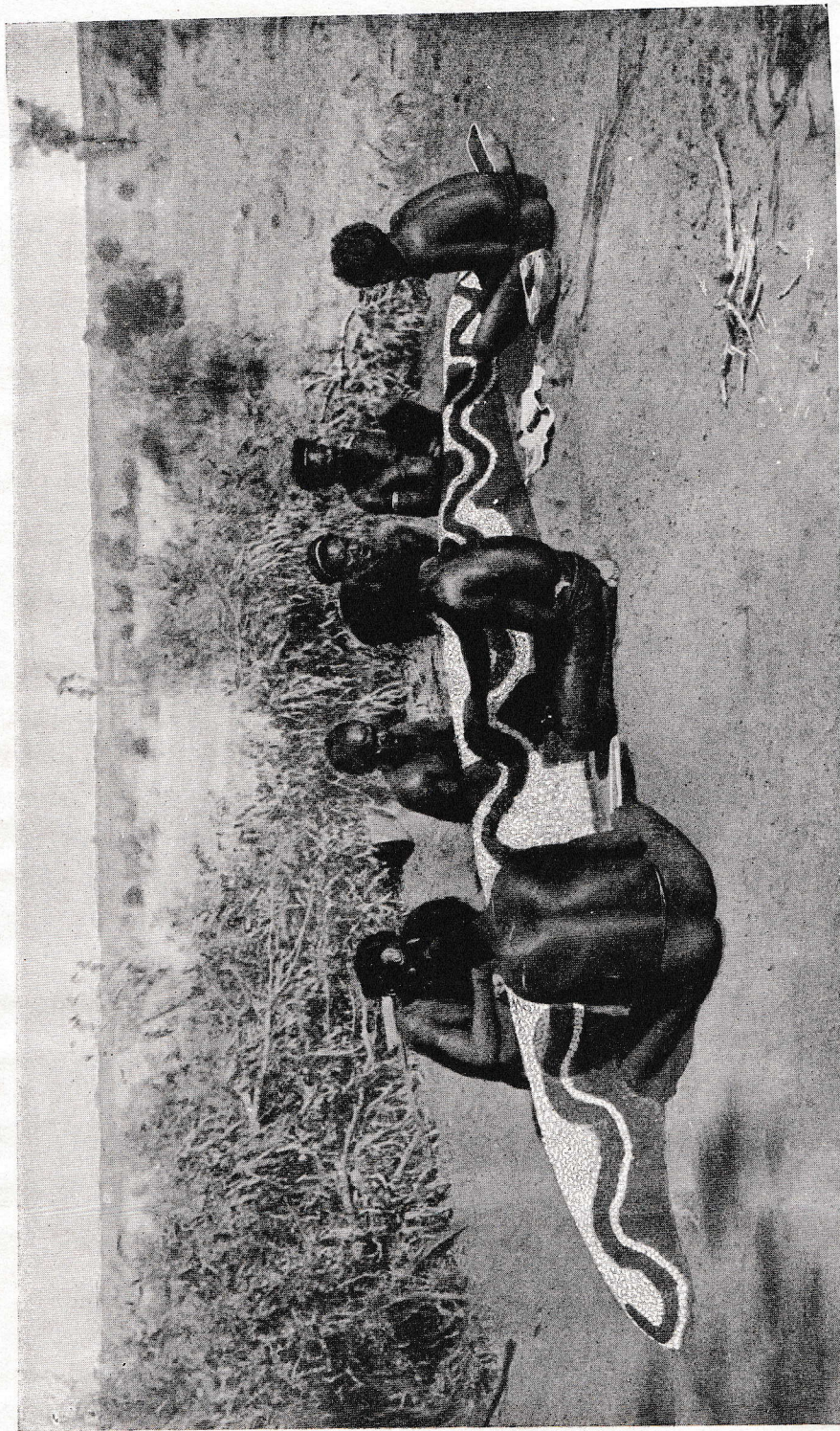


# ARUNTA ELDERS REHEARSING A DANCE THAT HAS REACHED THE DESERT FROM QUEENSLAND

Here is the new corroboree for which the Aruntas were preparing. It is a native Queenslander's invention. A square dance with high knee action, they recently saw it done by an eastern tribe, and having given a first timid rehearsal to women and children, it pleased them so much that they added a dramatic totem finish, chased women and children away, and made it a sacred performance for men alone

*Photo. Spencer & Gillen's "Northern Tribes of Central Australia." Macmillan & Co., Ltd*



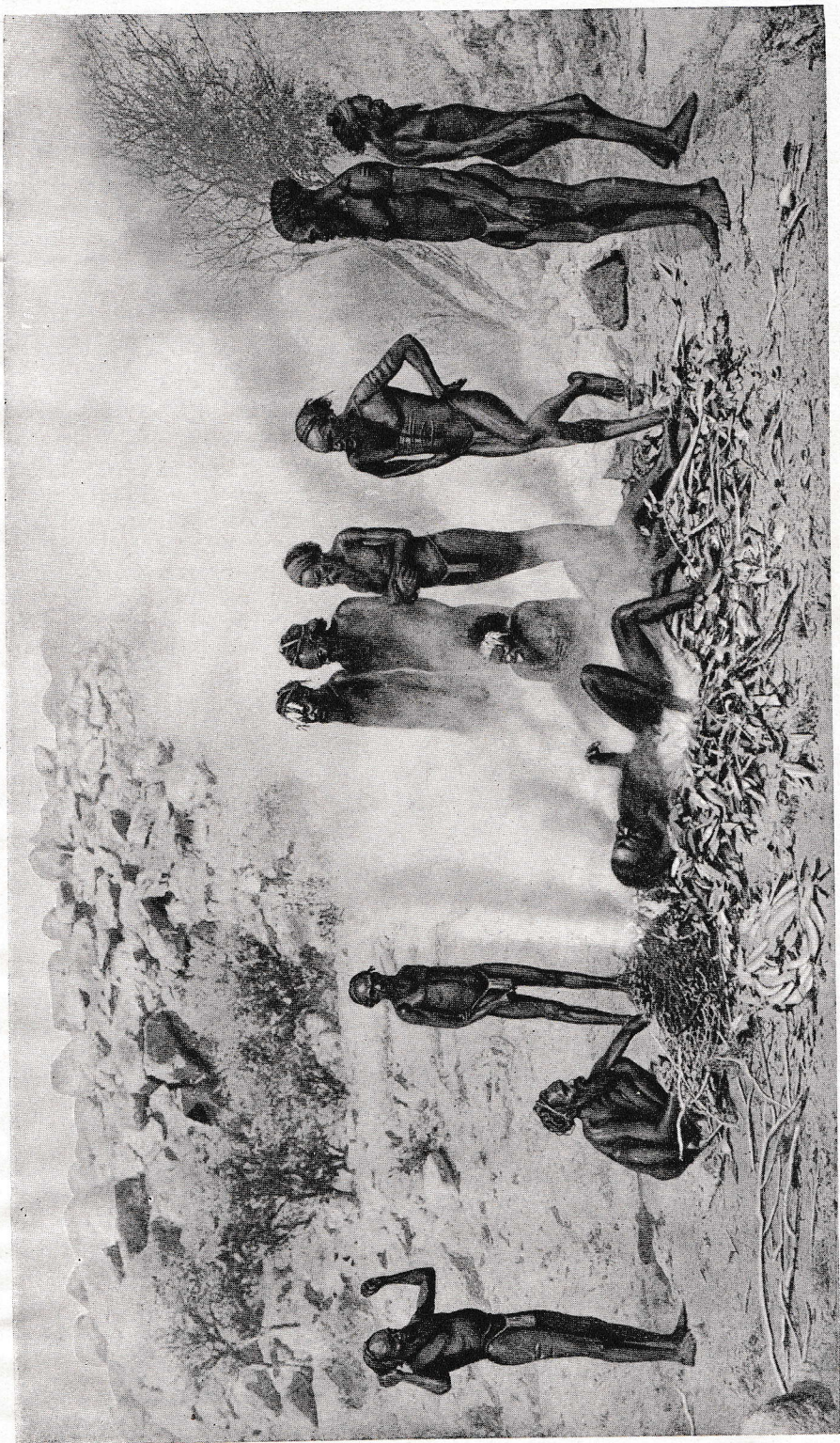


# TOTEM MOUND OF THE TERRIBLY GREAT WOLLUNQUA OF THE MURCHISON RANGE WATERHOLE

The low, long mound, with the snake drawn on it, has been prepared by the most powerful magician in the country. It will at once be used for ceremony on Wollunqua, the black, divine snake who has his tail fixed in the only water-hole that never dries up in the fiercest drought miles long, but he wants to escape his perpetual duty of water-preservation, and ravage Australia in his fiercest rage.

Photo. Spencer & Co. Ltd.





# FINAL ORDEAL BY ROASTING IN THE INITIATION OF YOUNG BEARDS INTO TRIBAL SECRETS

As a lad, the aborigine is tortured and mutilated by his elders in the early rites of initiation. When he is a grown man, he undergoes an ordeal of fourteen weeks of endurance, ending with a double roasting. He lies on a log fire for five minutes. The fire is then made hotter, and down he goes for another five minutes, rapidly twisting about to avoid serious burns. At middle-age there is even another severe test

Photo, Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia" Macmillan & Co., Ltd



## AUSTRALIA: THE NATIVE RACES

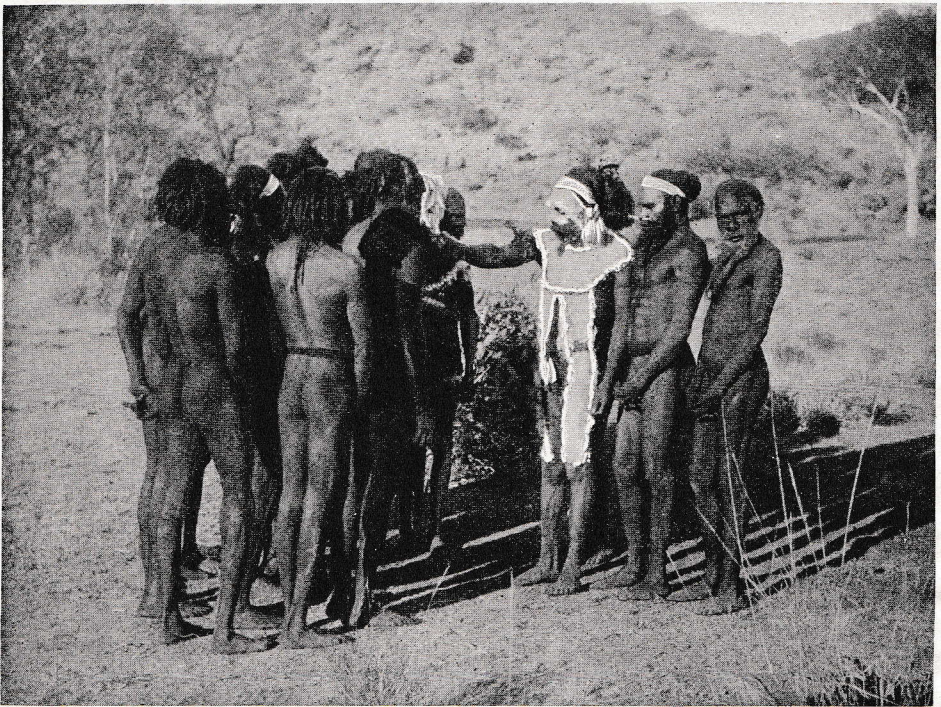
the woman flings her few belongings into a pitchi or wood trough, balances it on her head, takes a child upon her hip and a digging-stick in her free hand; and the family is ready for the road. All that remains to be done is for the dingo puppies that cannot walk to be assigned to the children or younger women for them to carry. Where women are in the party no hostile intent will be suspected by those whom the travellers approach; but even then etiquette has to be observed, and visitors sit down outside a camp, half an hour or longer, till the hosts are ready to greet them at the spot where visitors are received.

A visit of men only will always arouse some suspicion, but on the whole fighting is not a serious matter even when hostilities are deliberately planned. Some special enemy may be killed, but in the ordinary way peace comes when a few boomerangs and perhaps a spear

or two have been thrown. Ill-feeling vanishes once honour has been satisfied.

The reader who wishes to learn of the marriage customs must study the subject elsewhere, for complicated rules determine for each man the sections of the tribe—there are eight in all in the Warramunga—among whom he must seek his bride. Not the least singular feature of the situation is that all women in this section are addressed by him by the same kinship term, "unawa," irrespective of age and condition.

All men of the section to which the fathers of the unawa belong have in like manner their own term, so that when a man speaks of his father-in-law he alludes to a whole group of men (and boys) some of whom may be childless. In like manner he may—dreadful thought—have hundreds of mothers-in-law; but the tension is relieved by the fact that not one of them is allowed to speak



### RELEASING YOUNG INITIATES FROM THE BAN OF SILENCE

Arrayed in vari-coloured tufts of down to represent tribal ancestors, an elder touches with a magic object the mouths of the young men who have emerged from the ordeals. They may now speak to the men who have conducted them for fourteen weeks through the tests, and make them a present of a wallaby or a small kangaroo as festive meat

*Photo Spencer & Gillen's "Across Australia," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.*





#### MEN OF THE "NEVER NEVER LAND" IN TOTEM ATTIRE

They have spent hours in decorating themselves in colours and birds' down. The tufted sticks rising from the heads of the men in the second row are in the nature of "nurtunjas," or totem poles, and have much magical meaning. Some snakes seem to be the totem of the group, that is to say, the divine animal ancestor that produced human children

*Photo, P. J. MacMahon*

to him ; in fact, they must avoid him. This ban of silence is imposed upon mourners also ; if four men, each belonging to a different section of a tribe, chanced to die within a short time of each other, all the women of the camp would be condemned to silence ; but they would not be wholly without means of expressing their thoughts, for there is a widely understood gesture language,

and they chat away gaily on their fingers without uttering a sound beyond an occasional laugh. A woman is usually released from the ban in, at most, a year by biting a man's hand and subsequently giving him food, but there is on record a case of an old woman who was so satisfied to remain silent that she had not performed the rite and thus remained silent for a quarter of a century.



# Australia

## III. From Convict Settlement to Commonwealth

By Evans Lewin

Author of "The Commonwealth of Australia"

AUSTRALIA, unlike Canada or South Africa, has neither a long nor, judged from the usual standpoint, an interesting history. Its story has been marked by no great wars or stirring events such as render romantic the histories of most other European colonies. The continent has been singularly free from political disturbances; it has been the home of a single people, and thus has been spared those racial struggles which form the background of the political history of other colonies. There have been no great native rebellions, for the simple reason that the Australian aborigines were a scattered and feeble people who never formed an effective barrier against European intrusion.

Its history is naturally divided into four distinct epochs, each marking a progressive stage in the national development. It is ushered in by the period of discovery, followed by the story of the Penal Settlements and the foundation of daughter colonies of the original Mother State. The third period is distinguished from the others by the finding of gold, and the fourth period—the epoch of political and manufacturing expansion—begins with the formation of the Commonwealth, and culminates in the entry of Australia into the Council of Nations.

### The Mysterious Great Southern Land

Throughout the whole of these epochs the history of Australia has been distinguished by a strong attachment to the Mother Country and by a passionate devotion to the theory of nationhood.

The belief in the existence of a Great Southern Land, situated somewhere in the mysterious and unknown waters of the Pacific, steadily gained ground in the latter part of the sixteenth and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The discoveries of the Portuguese and Spaniards attracted special attention to this part of the world, and the outline of "Java la Grande," which began to appear on the maps, represented something more than those fabulous islands with which the early cartographers sometimes delighted to adorn their maps.

Although the credit of the discovery that Australia was neither a series of disconnected islands nor an extension of a Southern Antarctic continent belongs to an Englishman—Captain James Cook

—it was the Portuguese, Spaniards, and Dutch who first ventured into the southern waters and approached or landed on the Australian continent. The first book dealing with this subject was written by a Portuguese mariner, sailing under the Spanish flag—Fernandez de Quiros—who, in 1610, published an account of the voyage undertaken four years earlier to what he termed "Austrialia incognita," but De Quiros, who only reached Tahiti, was mistaken in his assumption that he had discovered the continent.

### First Voyages in Australian Seas

The first authentic record of a European voyage in Australian seas is that of the Dutch ship *Duyfken*, which in 1605 sailed from Java, reached the Gulf of Carpentaria, and turned southwards, but was soon compelled to return to Batavia.

In 1616 another Dutchman, Dirk Hartog, sailed down the barren shores of the west coast, reached Sharks' Bay, and discovered the island that still bears his name, and from that period the exploration of the northern, western, and southern shores of Australia was carried on tentatively and unsystematically by various Dutch seamen, under the orders of the Governors of Java. So much were the Dutch in evidence at this period that the newly-discovered continent was long termed New Holland, until in 1814 the suggestion of the "Naval Chronicle" that the country should be called Australia, founded upon the name *Terra Australis*, chosen by Captain Matthew Flinders, was finally adopted.

### Cook's Lucky Discovery of Australia

The accounts of the early voyagers were uniformly uncomplimentary to the new continent. Their journeys took them to its most inhospitable and barren shores, which were described as "wild, black, and barbarous," while the natives were called "cruel, poor, and brutal." Nor were the descriptions of the first Englishman who set foot on Australia more reassuring. When the buccaneer, William Dampier, explored the north-western coasts in 1688 and 1699 the best report that he could make was that "the land was not very inviting," and that the natives were the "miserablest in the world."

For seventy years after the visit of Dampier nothing further was done to make Australia known to the outside



## AUSTRALIA & ITS STORY

world, but in 1768 Captain James Cook was sent in command of the ship Endeavour to convey a party of scientific men to Tahiti. Among these was Sir Joseph Banks, who did more than anyone else to establish the claims of Australia to a place in European civilization.

Cook's instructions were to keep a sharp look-out for the supposed continent, and after leaving Tahiti he made his way towards New Zealand, sailed round both islands and established the fact that they had no connexion with any Great South Land, and sailing thence for Tasmania was, by a lucky chance, driven out of his course towards the fertile eastern shores

voyages of Cook, Flinders, and Baudin completed the discovery of Australia.

For some years after Captain Cook's discovery no steps were taken to form a settlement in Australia, but on August 18th, 1786, Lord Sydney, then Home Secretary, sanctioned the suggestion that parties of convicts should be sent to New South Wales as the easiest way out of the difficulty that had arisen, owing to the compulsory cessation of transportation to the American colonies. A fleet was prepared to take out seven hundred and fifty convicts, Captain Arthur Phillip was appointed Governor, and on January 18th, 1788, he reached Botany Bay.



### AUSTRALIA AND ITS NATIVE RACES

of the continent. Landing on April 28th, 1770, at Botany Bay, he afterwards sailed northwards, rounded Cape York, hoisted the British flag, and presented a new continent to the British Empire.

Other voyages of discovery along the Australian coasts, both French and English, followed. Matthew Flinders and George Bass, in a small boat, the Tom Thumb, only eight feet long, explored the coasts southwards from Sydney in 1796, and subsequent years, and in 1799, in the Investigator, Flinders made his celebrated survey along the southern coasts from Cape Leeuwin to Sydney, and only anticipated the French captain, Baudin, in numerous discoveries along the coasts. The

Captain Phillip was the right man for the job. By his energy and perseverance he laid the foundations of a new colony, and firmly established an undertaking that might otherwise have ended in disaster.

The assistance and influence of Sir Joseph Banks were invaluable. He sent the plants, obtained sheep, facilitated the expedition of supplies, and for many years was the constant friend of the new colony, rightly earning his title of the "Father of Australia" by the interest he took in its foundation.

The early years of the settlement, which Phillip established at Sydney on Port Jackson, although they are hardly creditable to the British authorities are





#### ELEVATOR AND CONVEYOR FOR STACKING SACKS OF WHEAT

This is the way they store wheat at the new show grounds of Keswick, in South Australia. But the farmers object to having to buy new sacks every year and watch their grain being attacked by mice. Before the war there was a strong agitation in favour of handling grain in bulk in the Canadian way, and a Royal Commission wanted this done

*Photo South Australian Govt*

nevertheless full of interest. While the influx of convicts was continuous, the introduction of free settlers, ardently desired by Banks and Phillip, but less pleasing to later Governors, was a slow business

In 1809 Colonel Lachlan Macquarie became Governor, initiated a new policy, encouraged the exploration of the interior, and started the period of active expansion. In 1813 the Blue Mountains, which shut in the penal settlement by what had seemed to some to be a providential barrier, were crossed by Gregory Blaxland; in 1817 John Oxley reached the Murrumbidgee and in 1823 explored the Brisbane River, so named after the Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane (1821-25); in 1828 Charles Sturt reached the Darling, so named after Governor Darling (1825-31); and in 1836 Sir Thomas Mitchell began to explore the Murray valley, went overland to Port Phillip (Melbourne), and opened the fertile inland districts of Victoria.

#### Great Explorers of Wild Australia

Many other explorations followed, notably those of Edward John Eyre, along the Australian Bight; Charles Sturt, whose voyage down the Murray in 1844 laid the foundations of the prosperity of South Australia; and John McDouall Stuart, who crossed the continent from Adelaide to the Indian Ocean in 1862. These men were instrumental in opening vast districts of Australia to settlement, while the pastoralists with their flocks pushed on from centre to centre until

the possibilities of Australia as a pastoral country became well known.

In the political sphere the colony of New South Wales, which included half the continent until 1834, when South Australia became a separate colony, had received its first Constitution in 1823.

#### The Last of the Penal Settlements

With the establishment of new settlements the need for the creation of fresh administrations followed. In 1829 a settlement on the Swan River led to the establishment of Western Australia in that year, following the separation from New South Wales in 1825 of the colony of Tasmania which, like Sydney, had been established as a penal settlement. Victoria became a separate colony in 1851, and Queensland received its administration eight years later.

The foundation of Adelaide and the formation of South Australia in 1836 marked a new epoch in Australian settlement. For the first time a colony was founded free from the taint of transportation.

The discovery of gold by Edward Hargraves, in 1851 made an enormous difference to the future of Australia, and precipitated it into nationhood. Previous to the opening of the Bendigo, Ballarat, and other mines in Victoria and New South Wales, the main industry of Australia was concerned with pastoral enterprises, but the discovery of gold, together with the abolition of transportation in 1840, led to a great influx of



## AUSTRALIA & ITS STORY

population. Melbourne became a flourishing centre. Agricultural settlements were established, not only in the neighbourhood of the gold fields, but in many other districts, and there ensued an era of national prosperity that was only temporarily stopped by the great drought of 1895-1901, when the sheep decreased by fifty-three millions, and there was a prolonged period of depression.

The influx of population, due to the gold discoveries, led to a revision of the Constitutional position, and in 1856, after an agitation headed by William Charles Wentworth, who in particular was opposed to the existing exclusive land policy, responsible government was granted to the four eastern colonies, the others receiving that benefit at a later period.

The new Constitutional position solidified and established the separatist tendency of the different colonies, but in a country like Australia, with its immense distances, it was perhaps inevitable that local interests should become stereotyped and the approach of federation retarded.

Politically, the position of the various colonies, with their kindred peoples and industries, became more and more unsatisfactory. While one (Victoria) was pursuing

a policy of protection another (New South Wales) was pledged to free trade. While Victoria and South Australia were building their railways on an exceptionally wide gauge New South Wales had adopted a narrower line.

Various attempts were made to overcome these difficulties and when Sir Henry Parkes took the lead in a movement for federation he secured the support of those who realized that the national future was being jeopardised, owing to the want of cohesion.

The agitation for federation was finally brought to a successful conclusion in the year 1900, and on January 1st, 1901 the Commonwealth of Australia came into being, special and very large powers being reserved to the individual states forming the Federation. The result of federation has been eminently satisfactory. A new impetus has been given to the development of commerce, agriculture has been greatly extended, local manufacturing industries have been established on a firm footing, and a national feeling has been fostered, which found its expression during the Great War, when Australia played so important a part in the defence of the British Empire.

## AUSTRALIA : FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

The Commonwealth of Australia consists of six colonies—called Original States—of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. Tasmania is dealt with elsewhere. The Northern Territory, Papua, and New Guinea are vested in the Commonwealth and also the Federal Territory in New South Wales (Canberra), future seat of Commonwealth Government. Total area is 2,974,581 square miles, with estimated population of 5,247,000 (1920), excluding about 90,000 aborigines. Area and estimated population of separate states are as follows: New South Wales, 309,432 square miles (2,002,631); Victoria, 87,884 square miles (1,495,938); Queensland, 670,500 square miles (725,220); South Australia, 380,070 square miles (468,194); Western Australia, 975,920 square miles (331,660); Tasmania, 26,215 square miles (216,751); Northern Territory, 523,620 square miles (4,706); Federal Territory, 940 square miles (1,919).

### Government and Constitution

Federal Parliament consists of Senate—six senators for each Original State—and House of Representatives, directly elected in proportion to population of states, total membership being about twice that of Senate. Executive power exercised by Governor-General as representative of the King, assisted by Executive Council of members of Federal Parliament. Legislative powers cover commerce, shipping, finance, defence, postal, and other services. Parliament is triennial; if Senate and Representatives disagree, joint sitting of two houses is decisive.

State Parliaments consisting each of two houses—Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly—exercise remaining government powers in their own territories, executive being a Governor appointed by the Crown and a Cabinet. Common

wealth laws are binding on each state. In New South Wales and Queensland Legislative Council is appointed, or nominated, for life by Crown. In Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia Legislative Council is elected on property qualifications. Legislative Assembly in New South Wales is elected by proportional representation. In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia Lower House is elected on adult male and female franchise.

### Defence

Compulsory training for Citizen Army is universal throughout Commonwealth. Permanent troops only maintained to administer and instruct Citizen Army. Total permanent strength (1919) 3,154. Royal Australian Navy consists of a Fleet unit begun in 1909, constructed and maintained at cost of the Commonwealth, including one battleship, five light cruisers, twelve destroyers, and six submarines, and other vessels.

### Commerce and Industries

Only 46 per cent. of total area of Australia is occupied. Main industry is wool production, there being about 90,000,000 sheep giving £42,500,000 worth of wool (1919). About 13,500,000 acres are under crops, agricultural production averaging about £58,000,000. Other industries are frozen meat, dairy produce, minerals, including gold (about £5,500,000), silver and lead (about £6,000,000), copper (£4,500,000). Imports (1919-20): £97,457,000; exports, £148,565,000.

### Chief Towns

New South Wales: Sydney (636,353); Newcastle (62,900). Victoria: Melbourne (743,000); Ballarat (39,840); Bendigo (34,780). Queensland: Brisbane (189,576); Rockhampton (20,915). South Australia: Adelaide (256,660). Western Australia: Perth and its port, Fremantle (142,000).





ROW OF MERRY STYRIAN TOWN GIRLS GOING FOR A MOUNTAIN PICNIC

Their simple dresses, only occasionally distinguished by an old-fashioned corselet, mark them off from the mountaineer girls who hold to the finer, elaborate, ancient varieties of costume. They are working girls of the large busy capital of the duchy of Styria, keeping up the custom of merry mountain excursions in summer. But there are no young men to accompany them. Styria suffered very heavily from the war.

Photo. Donald McLeish